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ABSTRACT

Fifty-six charts present data on the characteristics of American working women and their changing status over the past 25 years. The major data source is the Current Population Survey conducted monthly for the Bureau of Labor Statistics by the Bureau of Census. Part 1 provides information on employment and unemployment. In January 1975 some 36 and one-half million women were in the work force, about 40 percent of the country's entire labor force and almost 46 percent of all women 16 years and over. Part 2 shows the marital and family status. Married women living with their husbands, nearly 21 million in 1974, account for almost three-fifths of all women workers. However, the number of families headed by working women is rising. Income of working women is analyzed in Part 3, and data on their education are shown in Part 4. The great majority of working women have not yet attained parity with working men in earned income. Median usual weekly earnings of women in full-time jobs in 1974 were about 60 percent of those of men. In 1974, 72 percent of women workers had graduated from high school, compared with 67 percent for men. Part 5 provides additional information on the characteristics of working women. (Author/EA)

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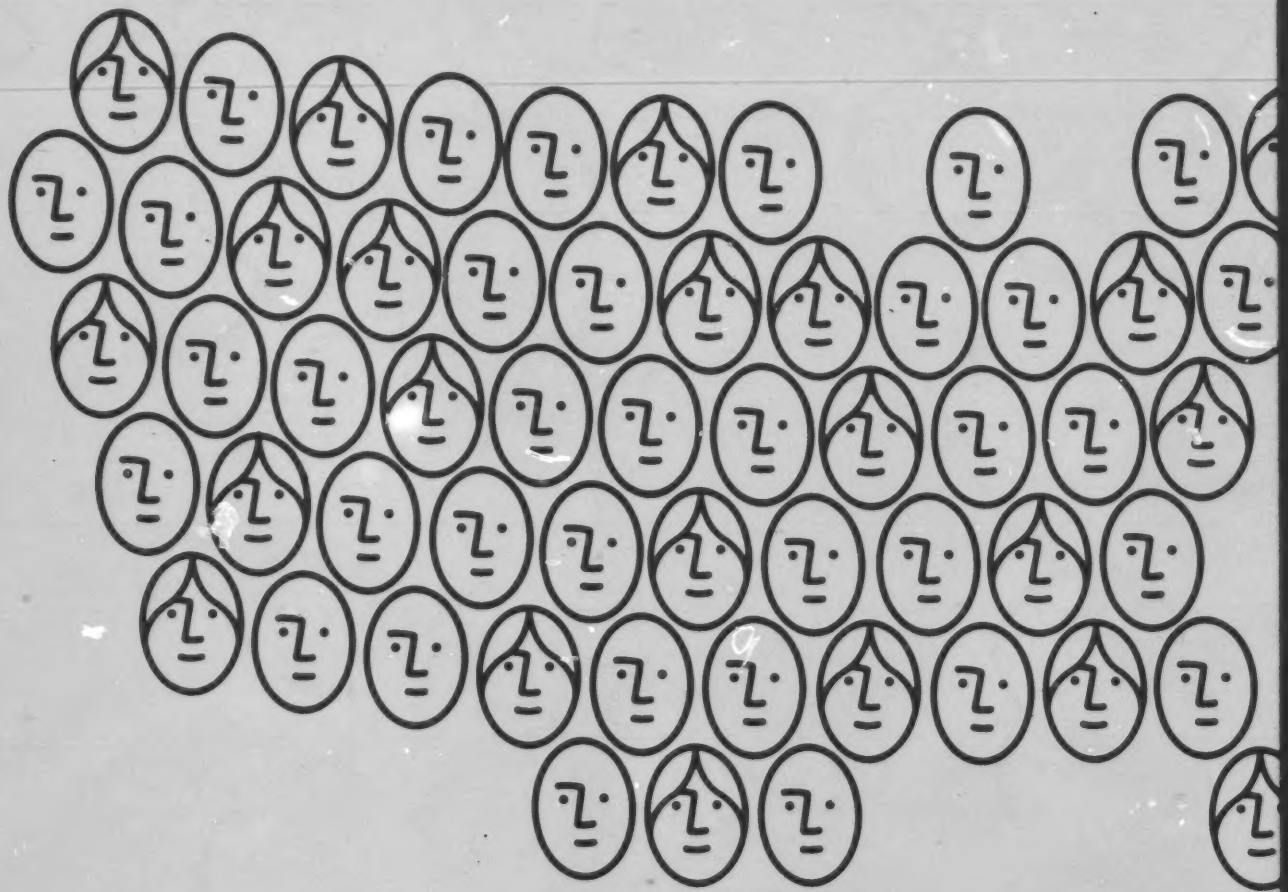

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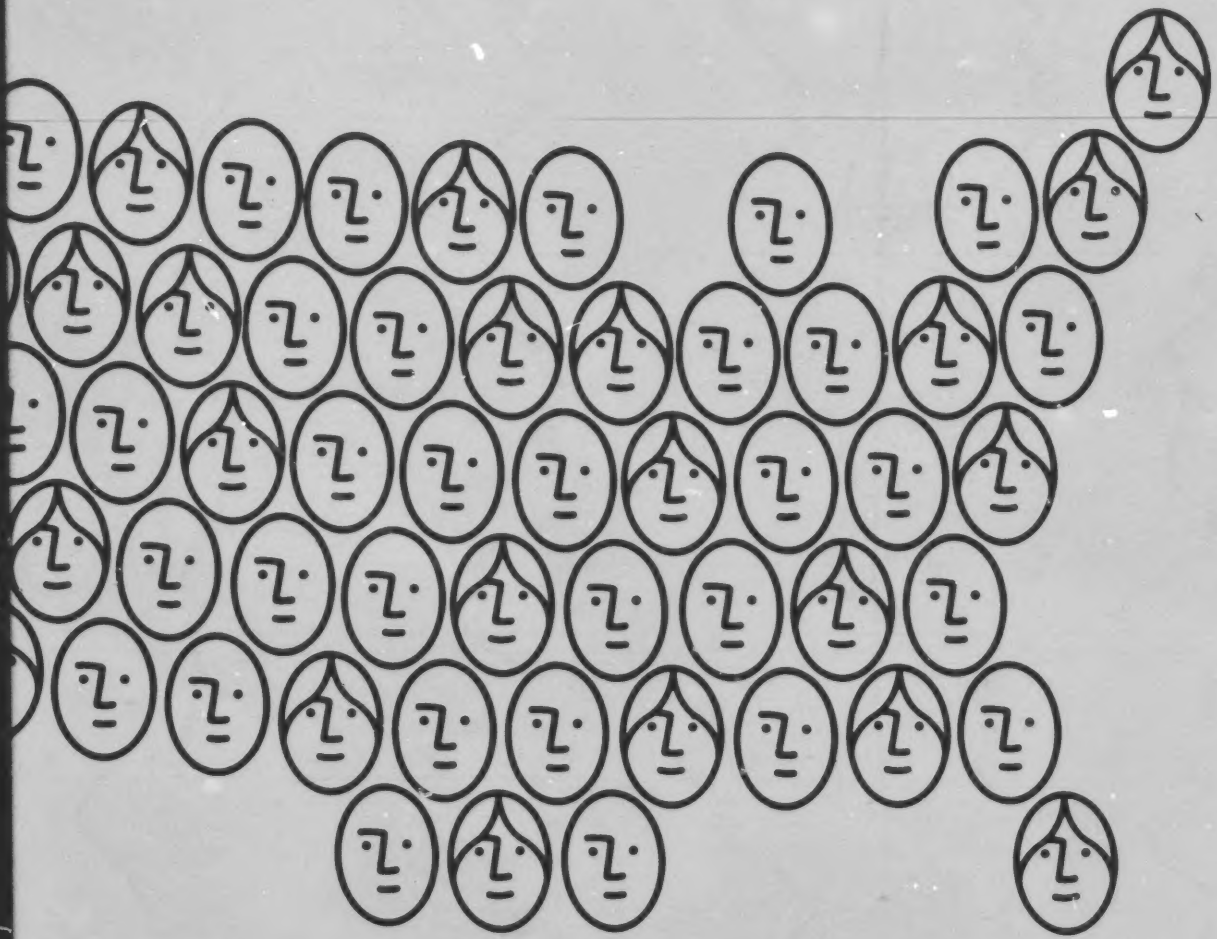

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Foreword

To encourage worldwide efforts to improve the status of women, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 1975 as International Women's Year. The goals of International Women's Year are threefold:

to promote equality between men and women;

to support the full integration of women into the economic, social, and cultural life of their countries;

to recognize and encourage the role of women in the development of international cooperation and world peace.

The President has requested that agencies of the U. S. Government participate in activities in support of these goals. As part of its contribution to the Department of Labor's program for International Women's Year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has prepared the accompanying chartbook to illustrate the role of working women in the U. S. economy.

Julius Shiskin, Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Readers of this chartbook interested in keeping informed on current developments in the U. S. labor force can find up-to-date statistics in regular publications of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Labor force data are published monthly in *Employment and Earnings* and the *Monthly Labor Review,* both available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. Special analyses are issued from time to time and are published in the *Monthly Labor Review* as Special Labor Force Reports. Reprints are available, as long as supplies last, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics or any of its regional offices.

Preface

This chartbook presents a wide array of data on the characteristics of American working women and their changing status over the past quarter of a century. The working life of women has expanded enormously over this period, and it is likely to continue to lengthen.

Part I of the chartbook provides information on the labor force participation of women—their employment and unemployment. Part II shows their marital and family status. The income of working women is analyzed in Part III, and data on their education are shown in Part IV. Part V provides additional information on the characteristics of working women. All data, unless otherwise indicated, refer to the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years and over.

The chartbook was prepared in the Division of Labor Force Studies, Office of Current Employment Analysis. It was designed and written by Earl Mellor, with the assistance of Barbara Seale, under the direction of Elizabeth Waldman and Harvey Hamel. Robert Stein, Chief of the Division of Labor Force Studies, provided invaluable guidance and assistance.

Contents

PART I.

Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Work Experience

1 Summary labor force indicators for women, 1974

2 Civilian labor force by sex, selected years, 1950-74

3 Labor force participation rates by sex, 1950-74

4 Labor force participation rates by age and sex, selected years, 1950-74

5 Persons not in the labor force by sex and reason for nonparticipation, 1974

6 Employed and unemployed persons by sex, 1950-74

7 Employed persons by sex and occupation, 1974

8 Employed women by occupation, 1960, 1970, and 1974

9 Women as a proportion of all workers by occupation, 1974

10 Persons on nonagricultural payrolls by sex and industry, 1974

11 Women as a proportion of all persons on nonagricultural payrolls by industry, 1974

12 Unemployed persons by sex and age, selected years, 1950-74

13 Unemployed persons by sex and reason for unemployment, 1974

14 Unemployment rates by sex, 1950-74

15 Unemployment rates by sex and age, 1974

16 Unemployment rates by sex, age, and race, 1974

17 Workers by sex, full- or part-time work experience, and weeks worked, 1973

18 Women with work experience as a proportion of all women, 1973

19 Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers by age

20 Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers by occupation

21 Women by reason for less than full-time work, 1973

22 Women with unemployment in 1973 by work experience and weeks unemployed

23 Women with unemployment in 1973 by race, age, and marital status

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6 Employed and unemployed persons by sex, 1950-74

7 Employed persons by sex and occupation, 1974

8 Employed women by occupation, 1960, 1970, and 1974

9 Women as a proportion of all workers by occupation, 1974

10 Persons on nonagricultural payrolls by sex and industry, 1974

11 Women as a proportion of all persons on nonagricultural payrolls by industry, 1974

12 Unemployed persons by sex and age, selected years, 1950-74

13 Unemployed persons by sex and reason for unemployment, 1974

14 Unemployment rates by sex, 1950-74

15 Unemployment rates by sex and age, 1974

16 Unemployment rates by sex, age, and race, 1974

17 Workers by sex, full- or part-time work experience, and weeks worked, 1973

18 Women with work experience as a proportion of all women, 1973

19 Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers by age

20 Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers by occupation

21 Women by reason for less than full-time work, 1973

22 Women with unemployment in 1973 by work experience and weeks unemployed

23 Women with unemployment in 1973 by race, age, and marital status

PART II.
Marital and Family Status

24 Women in the labor force by marital status, 1950-74

25 Labor force participation rates of women by marital status and age, March 1974

26 Labor force participation rates of married women by presence and age of children, 1950-74

27 Labor force participation rates of married and formerly married women under age 45, March 1974

28 Children under age 18 by type of family and labor force status of mother, 1970 and 1974

29 Children under age 18 by type of family, age, and labor force status of mother, March 1974

30 Birth rates of women in husband-wife families by age and labor force status of mother, June 1974

31 Summary indicators for families headed by women, selected periods, 1960-74

PART III.
Income and Earnings

32 Income of women by source, 1973

33 Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, 1967-74

34 Median usual weekly earnings of full-time women wage and salary workers by occupation, May 1974

35 Median usual weekly earnings of full-time women wage and salary workers by industry, May 1974

36 Median annual earnings of year-round full-time women workers by occupation, 1973

37 Median annual earnings of full- and part-time women workers by weeks worked, 1973

38 Median annual earnings of family heads in production and nonsupervisory jobs by sex, 1963-73

39 Husband-wife families by earners in family during 1973

40 Earnings of women in husband-wife families as a percent of 1973 family income, by selected characteristics

41 Wives with earnings by percent of 1973 family income

42 Median 1973 income of families with children by type of family and labor force status of mother, March 1974

43 Median 1973 income of women with income by years of school completed

44 Women below the poverty level, 1973, by selected characteristics

PART IV.
Education

45 Labor force by sex and years of school completed, 1952 and 1974

46 Labor force participation and unemployment rates of women by years of school completed, March 1974

47 Women in the labor force by age and years of school completed, March 1974

48 Employed women by years of school completed and occupation, March 1974

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49
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1973

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sex, 19

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39 Husband-wife families by earners in family during 1973

40 Earnings of women in husband-wife families as a percent of 1973 family income, by selected characteristics

41 Wives with earnings by percent of 1973 family income

42 Median 1973 income of families with children by type of family and labor force status of mother, March 1974

43 Median 1973 income of women with income by years of school completed

44 Women below the poverty level, 1973, by selected characteristics

PART IV.

Education

45 Labor force by sex and years of school completed, 1952 and 1974

46 Labor force participation and unemployment rates of women by years of school completed, March 1974

47 Women in the labor force by age and years of school completed, March 1974

48 Employed women by years of school completed and occupation, March 1974

PART V.

Additional Characteristics of Working Women

49 Multiple jobholding by sex, May 1974

50 Full-time wage and salary workers by sex and usual workweek, May 1974

51 Wage and salary workers by sex and time of starting and ending work, May 1974

52 Overtime workers by sex, May 1974

53 Job tenure by sex, January 1973

54 Transportation to work, by sex, 1970

55 Selected indicators for women by race and Spanish origin, 1970

56 Life expectancy and work-life expectancy by sex, selected years, 1900-1970

Sources of Data

Labor Force, Employment, Unemployment, and Work Experience

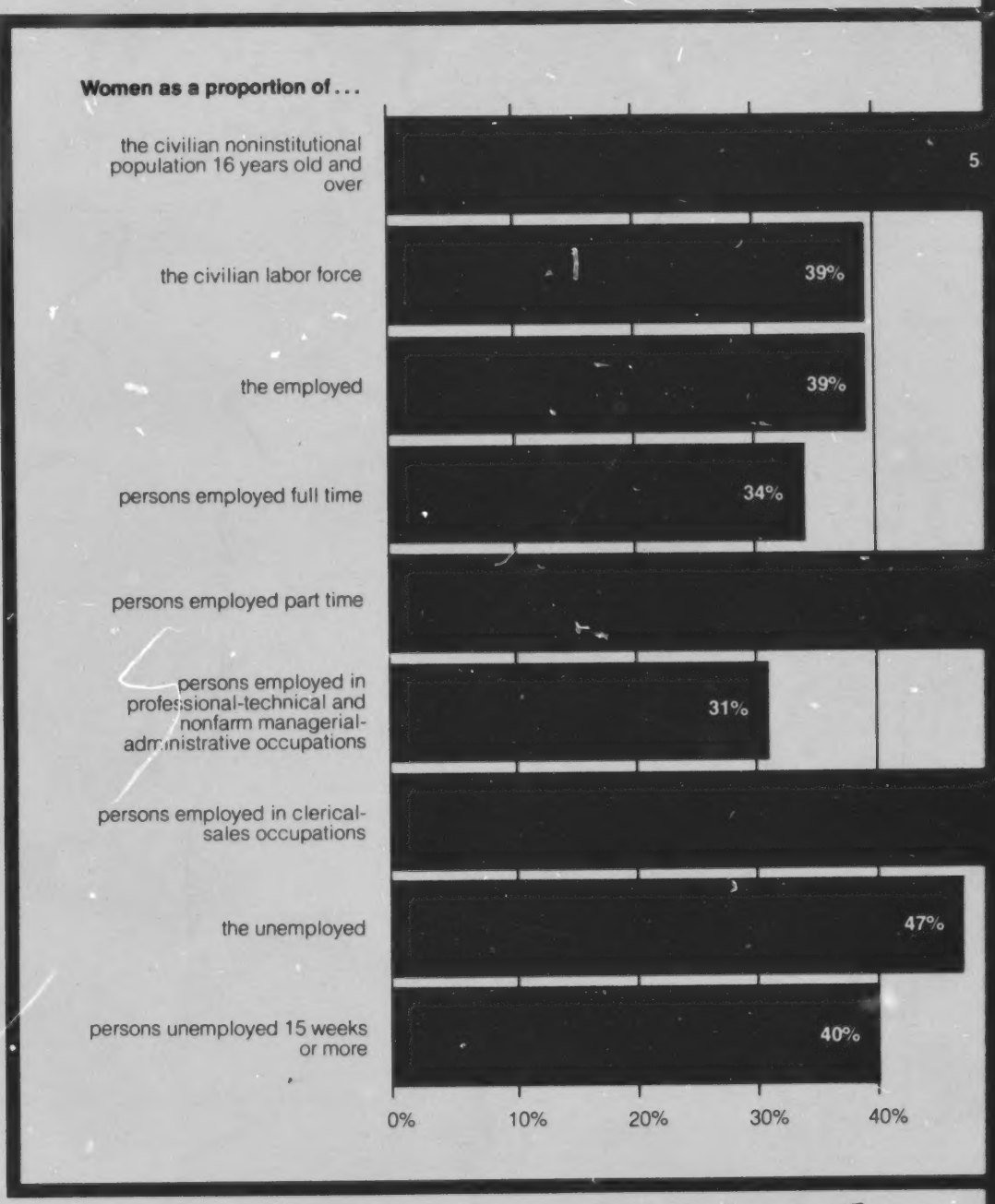
Part I

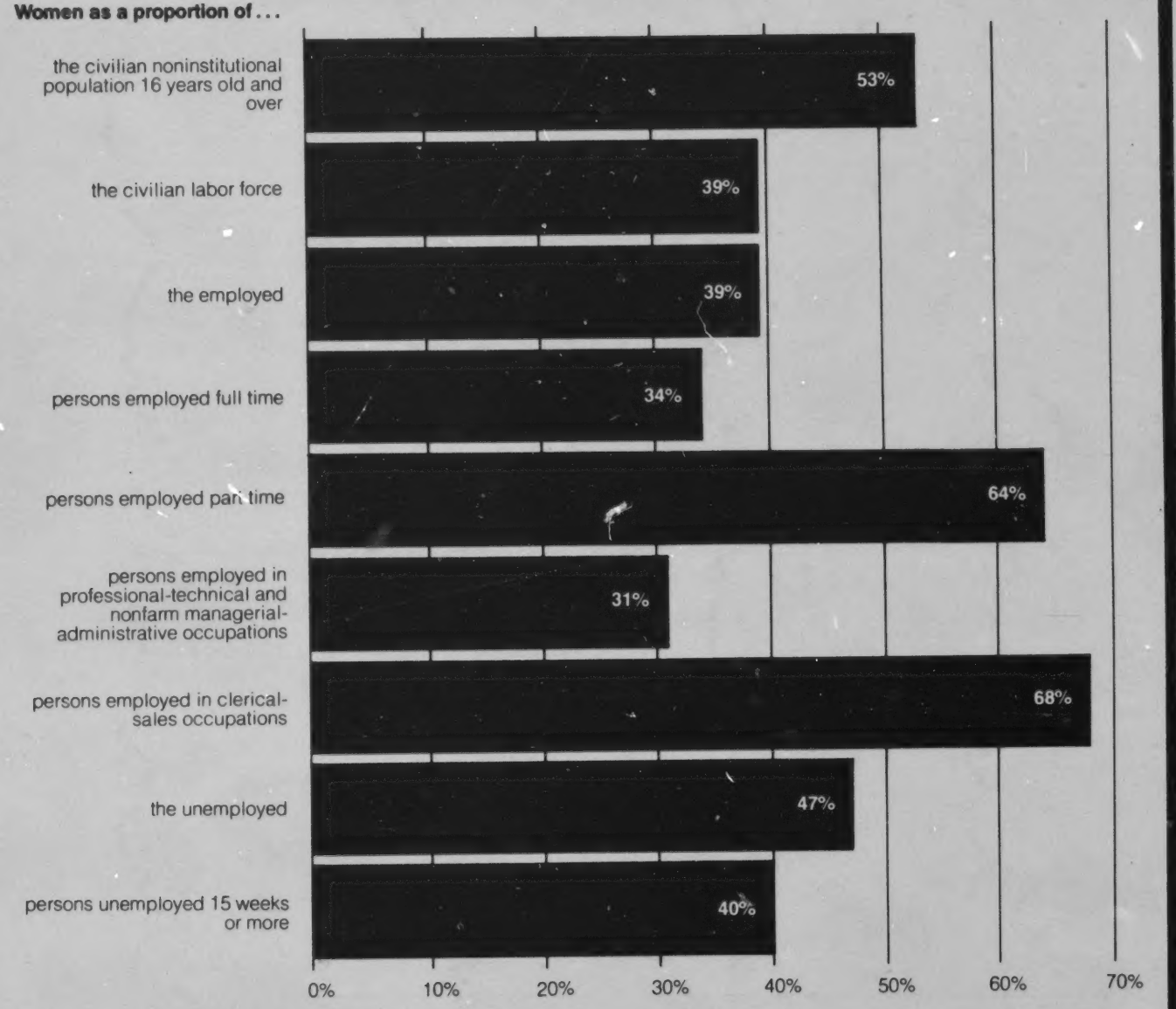
Women are playing an increasingly important role in the U. S. economy. The number and proportion who are in paid employment continue to rise and their attachment to the labor force shows marked gains in strength as more work year-round at full-time jobs. At the beginning of 1975, some 36½ million women were in the work force—about 40 percent of the country's entire labor force and almost 46 percent of all women 16 years of age and over.

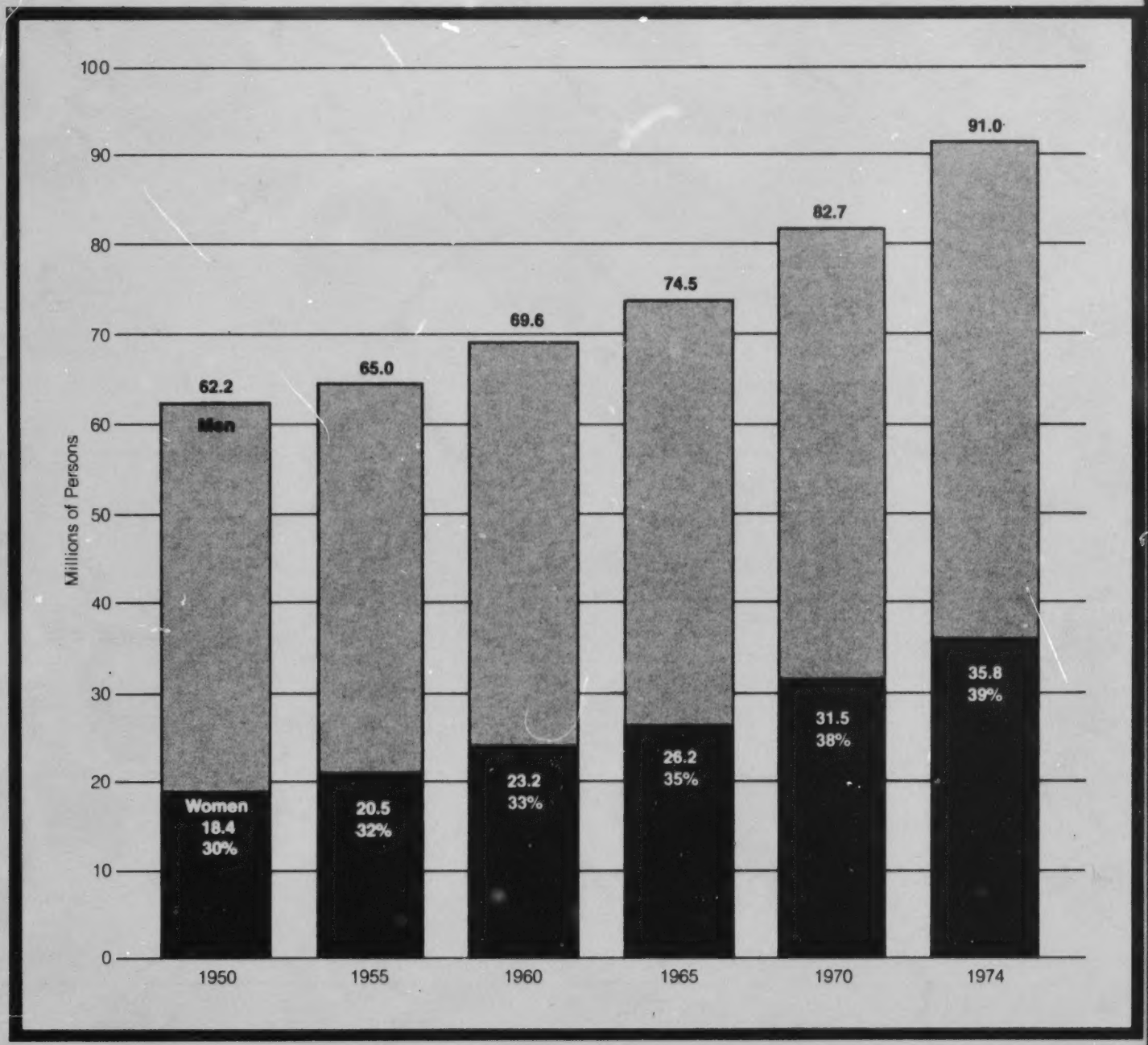
1

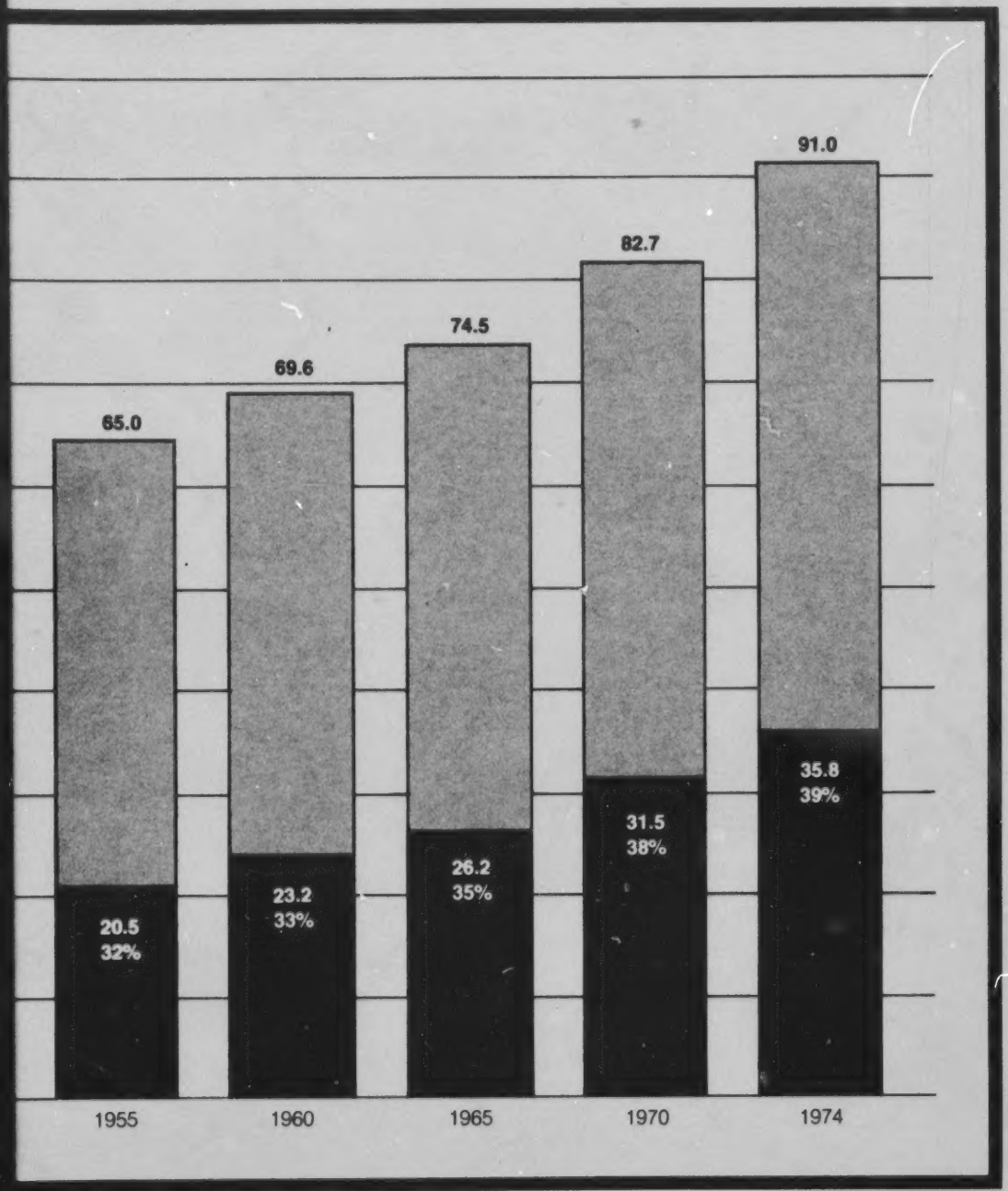
Summary Labor Force Indicators for Women, 1974

(annual averages)




Women as a proportion of . . .
the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years old and over
53%
the civilian labor force
39%
the employed
39%
persons employed full time
34%
persons employed part time
64%
persons employed in professional-technical and nonfarm managerial-administrative occupations
31%
persons employed in clerical-sales occupations
68%
the unemployed
47%
persons unemployed 15 weeks or more
40%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%
70%


100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Millions of Persons
62.2
Men
65.0
69.6
74.5
82.7
91.0
Women
18.4
30%
20.5
32%
23.2
33%
26.2
35%
31.5
38%
35.8
39%
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1974



2

Civilian labor force by sex, selected years, 1950-74

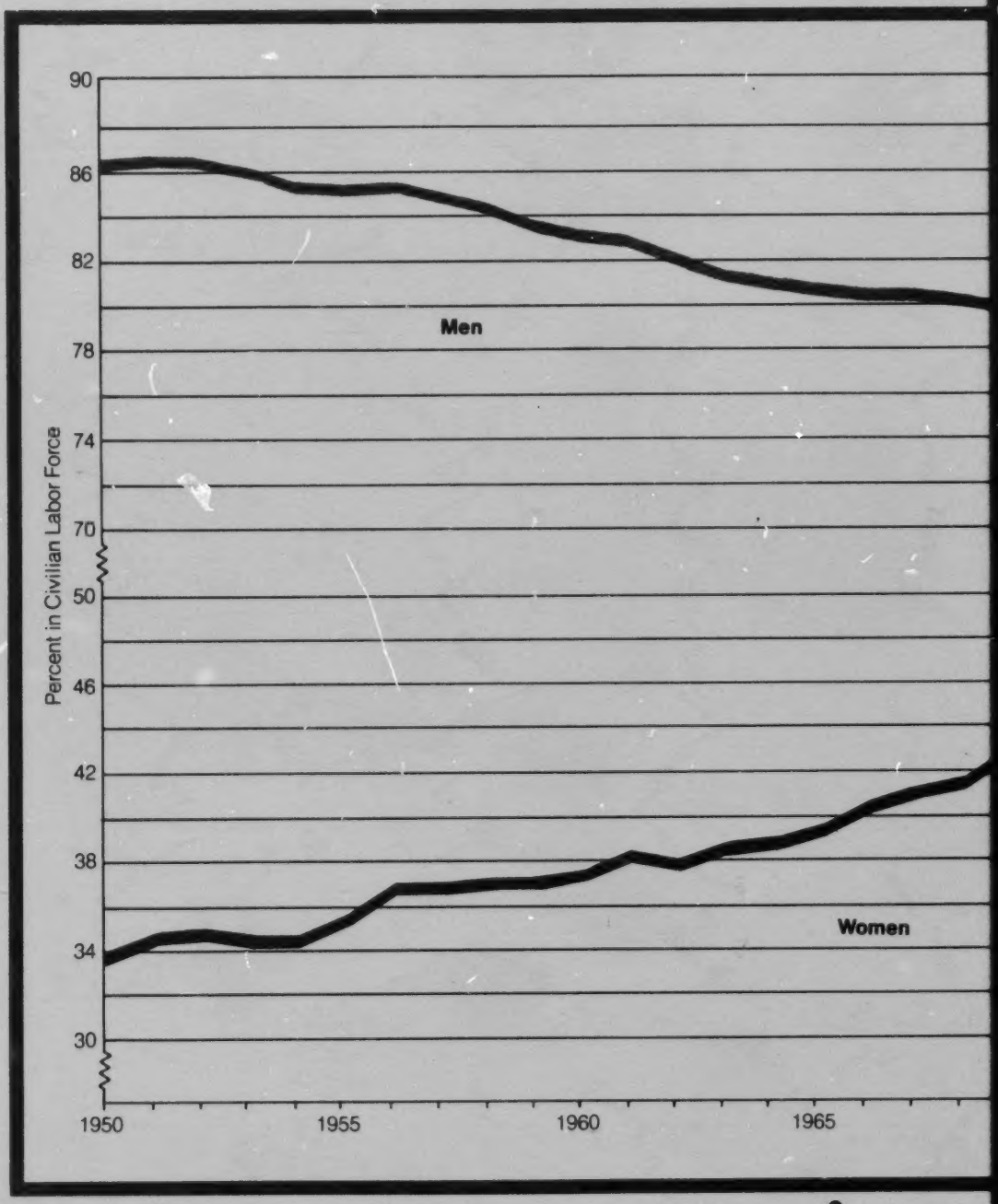
(annual averages)

The number of women in the labor force nearly doubled between 1950 and 1974—women now account for two-fifths of all workers.

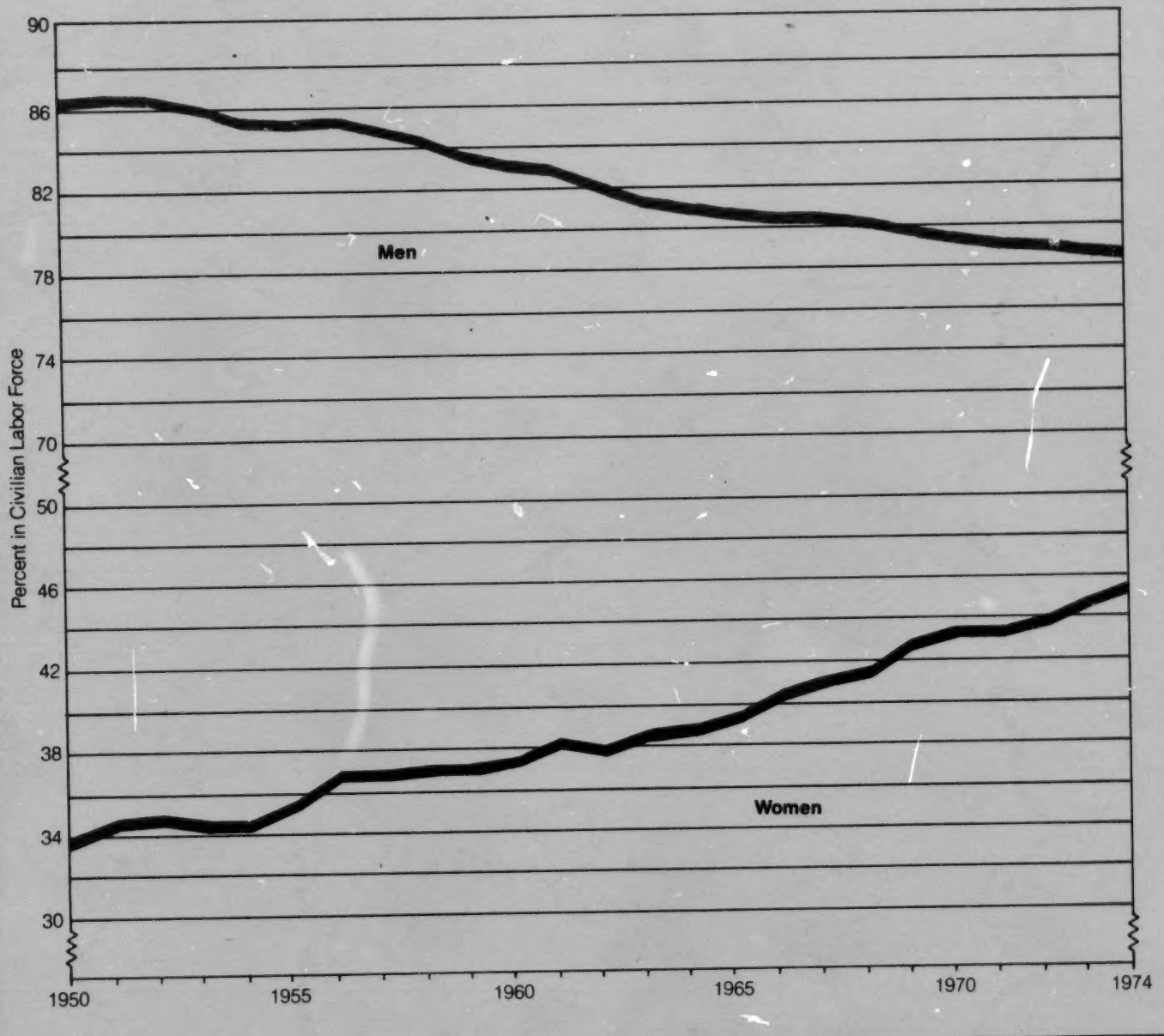
3

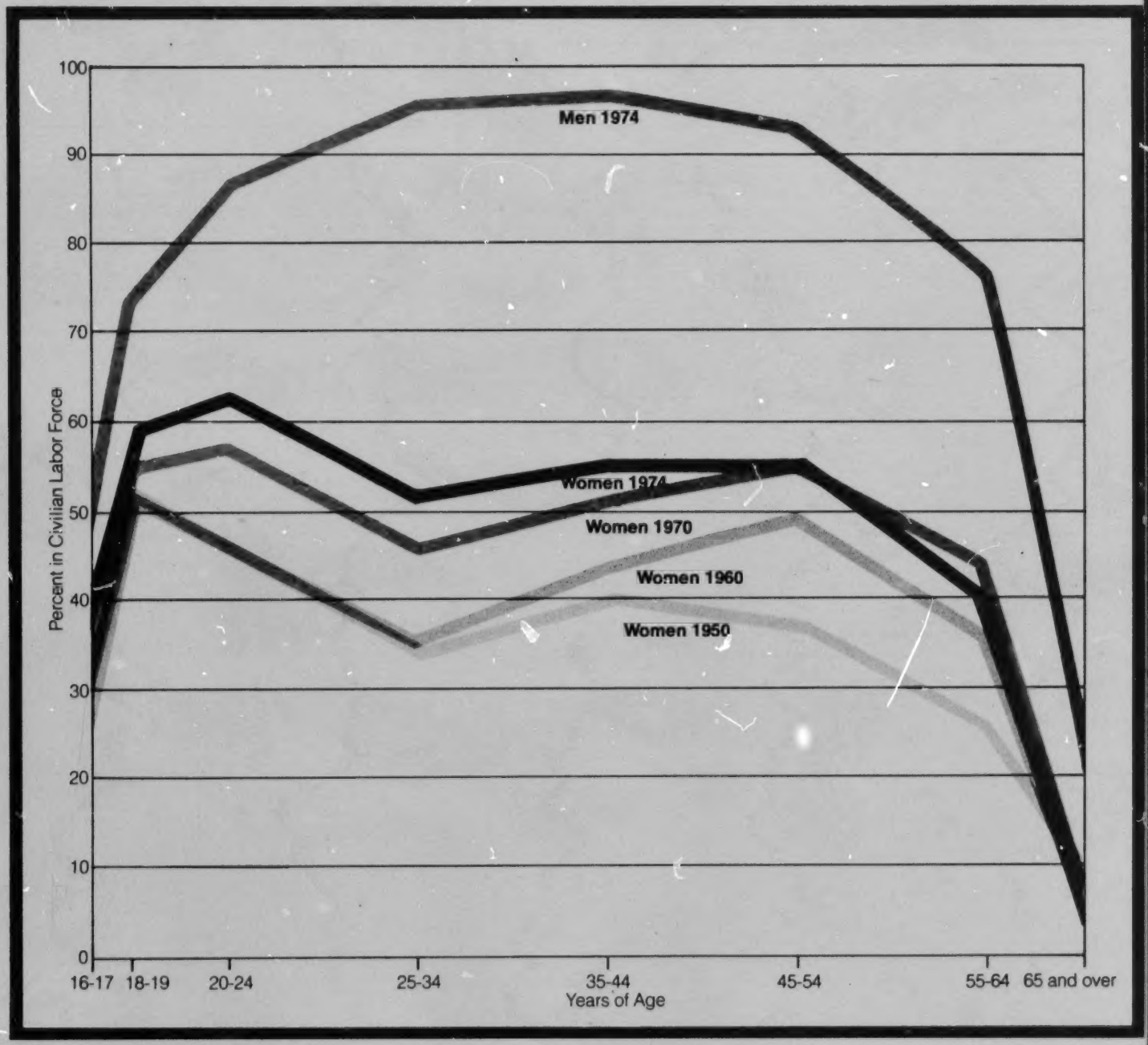
Labor force participation rates by sex, 1950-74

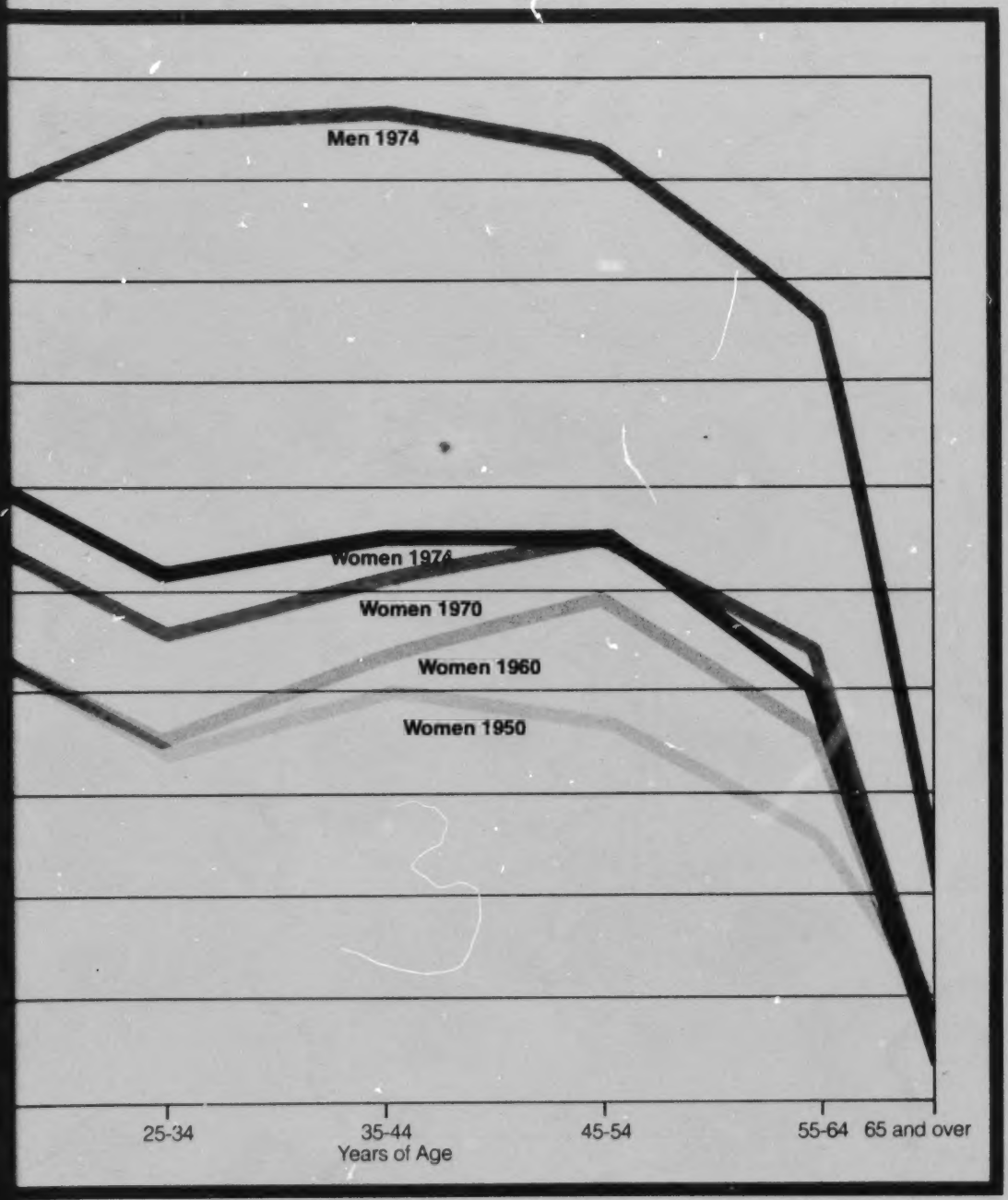
(annual averages)



As the proportion of the female population in the labor force rose sharply from 1950 to 1974, the labor force participation rate for men moved downward.


90
86
82
78
74
70
50
46
42
38
34
30
Percent in Civilian Labor Force
Men
Women
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1974


100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Percent in Civilian Labor Force
Men 1974
Women 1974
Women 1970
Women 1960
Women 1950
16-17
18-19
20-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65 and over
Years of Age



4

Labor force participation rates by age and sex, selected years, 1950-74

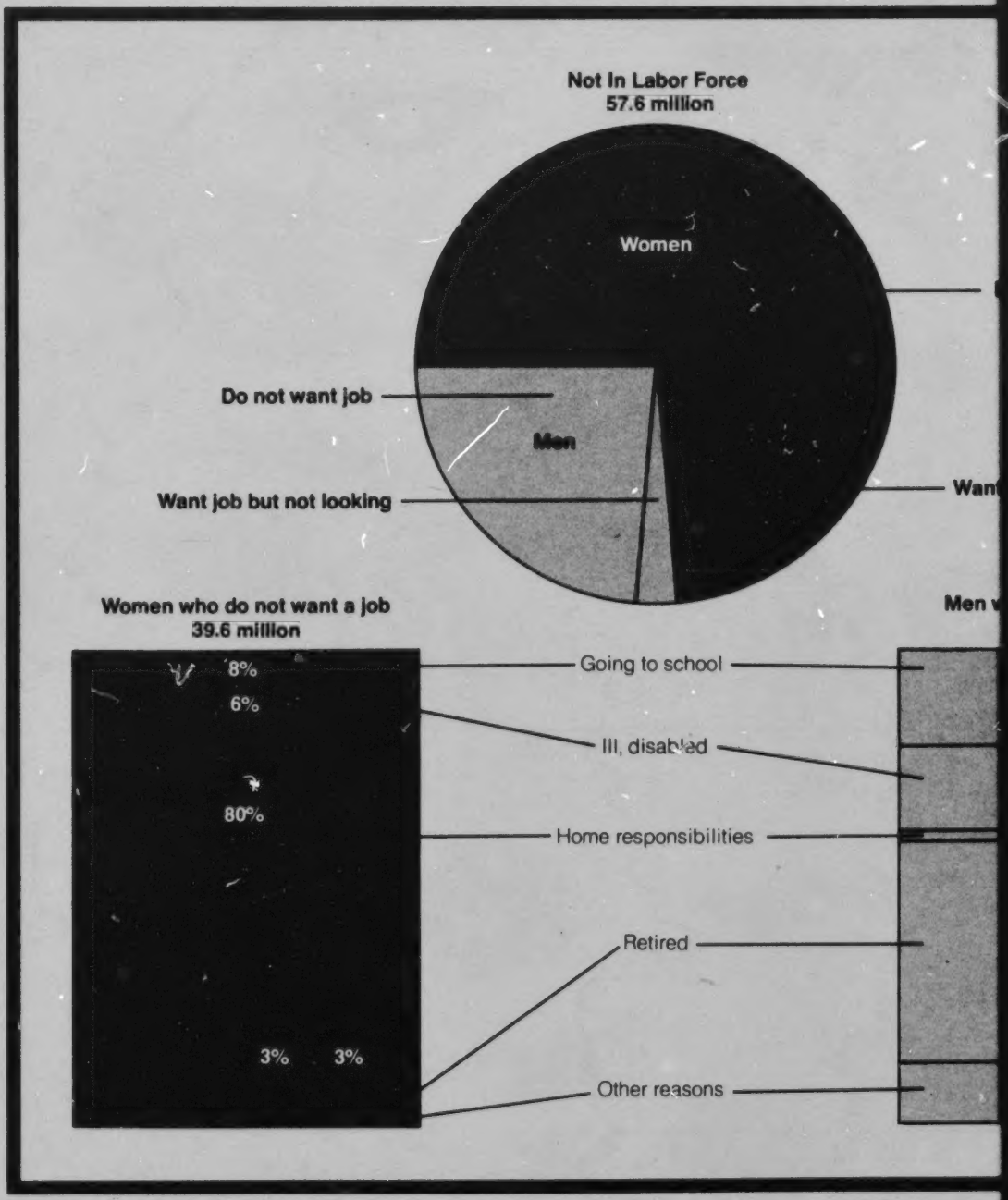
(annual averages)

More than half of the women in most age groups are now in the labor force. Recent increases have occurred mostly among women in their twenties and early thirties.

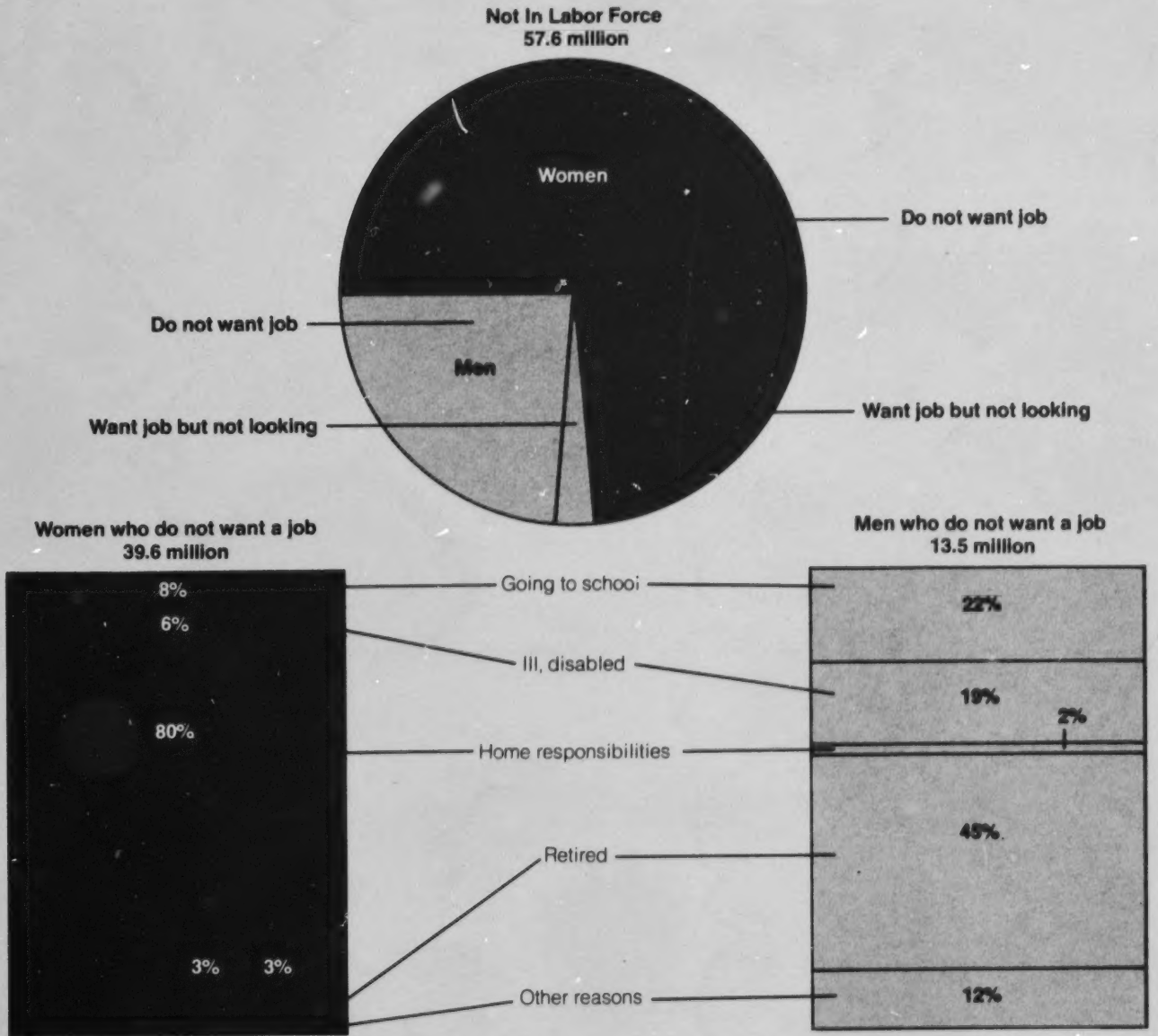
5

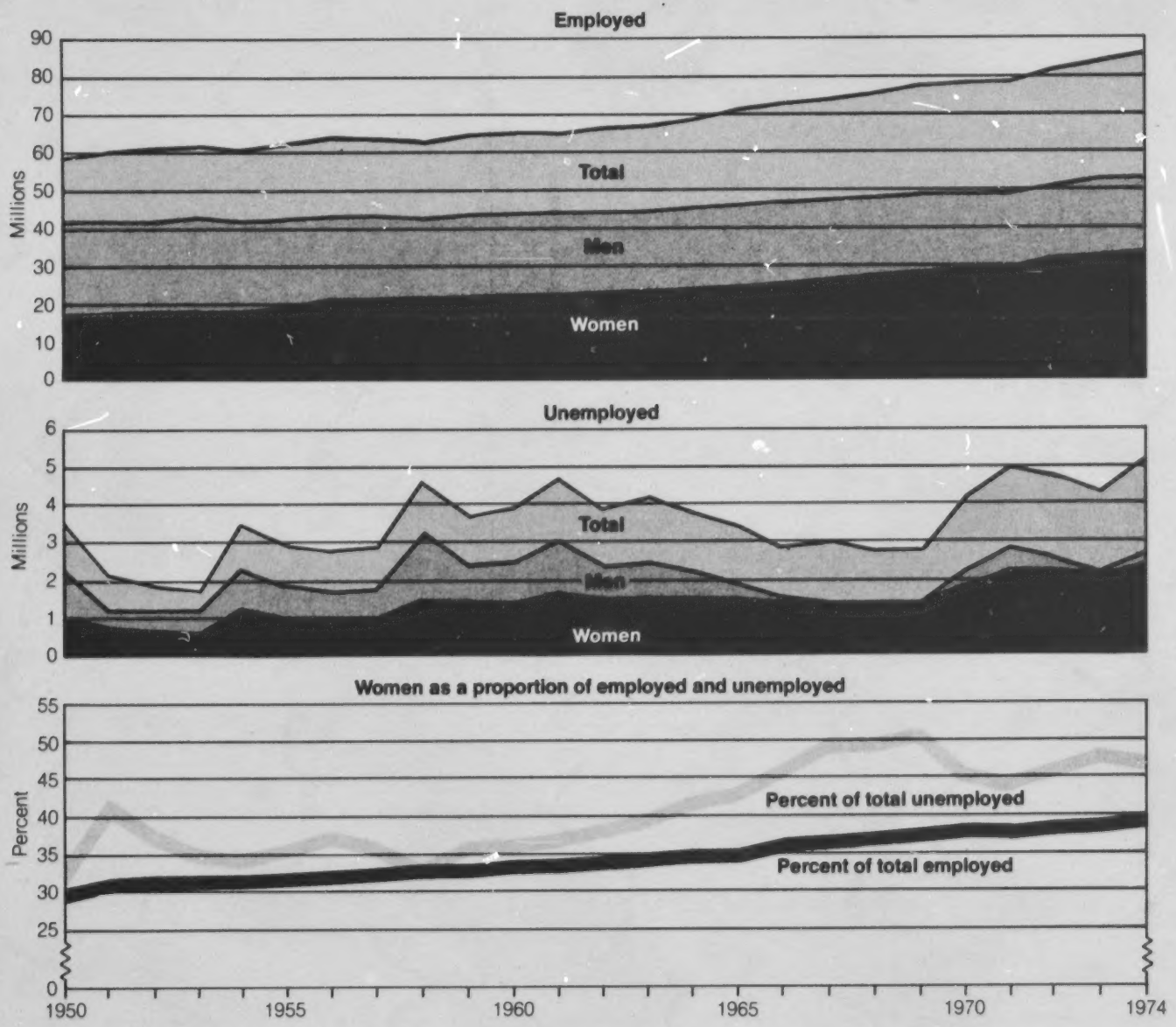
Persons not in the labor force by sex and reason for nonparticipation, 1974

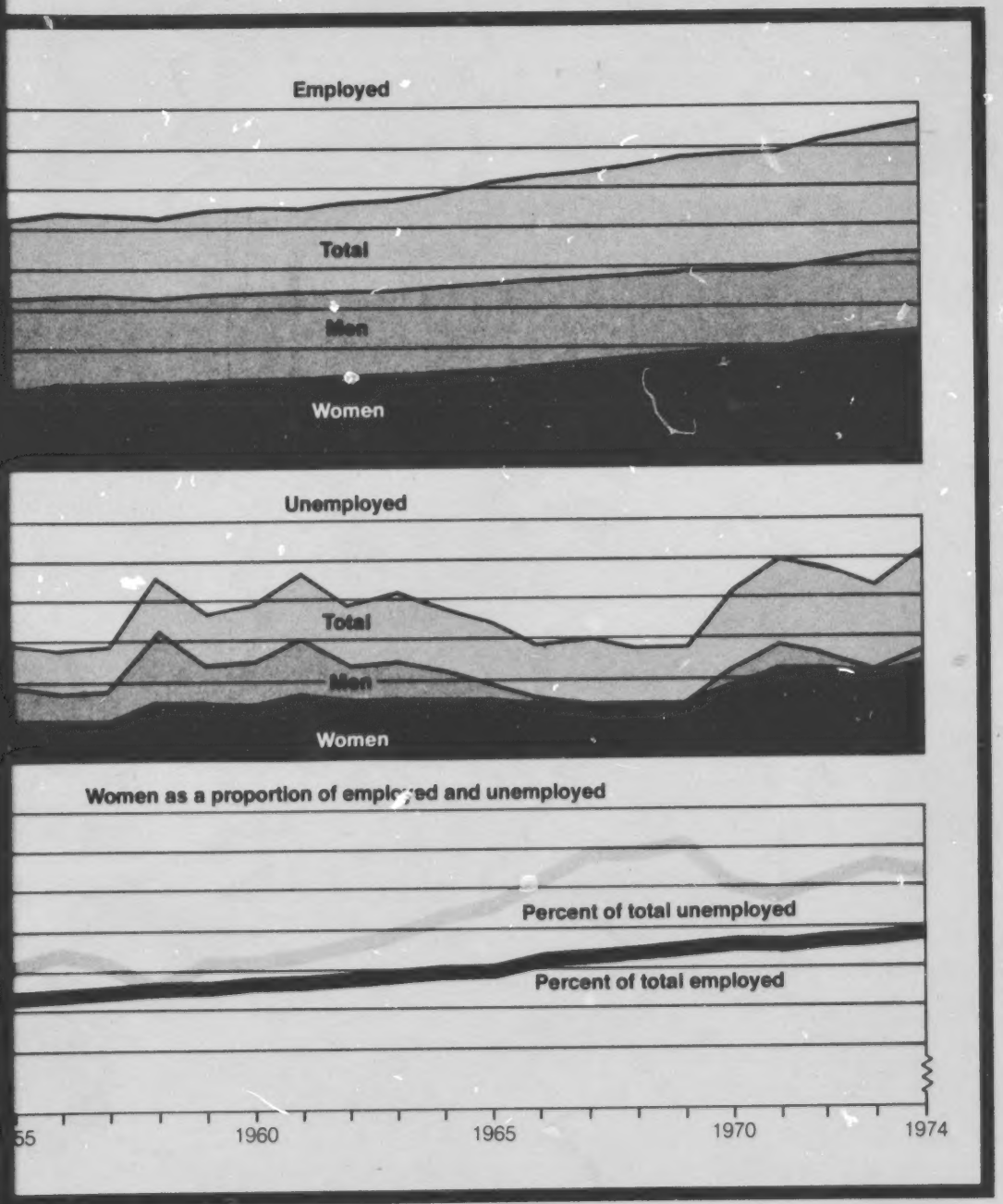
(annual averages)



Women constitute about three-fourths of the population outside of the labor force. Like men, most of these women do not want jobs, but for reasons markedly different from those for men.


Not In Labor Force
57.6 million
Women
Do not want job
Men
Do not want job
Want job but not looking
Want job but not looking
Women who do not want a job
39.6 million
8%
6%
80%
3%
3%
Going to schooi
Ill, disabled
Home responsibilities
Retired
Other reasons
Men who do not want a job
13.5 million
22%
19%
2%
45%
12%


Employed
Millions
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Total
Men
Women
Unemployed
Millions
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Total
Men
Women
Women as a proportion of employed and unemployed
Percent
55
50
45
40
35
30
25
0
Percent of total unemployed
Percent of total employed
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1974



6

Employed and unemployed persons by sex, 1950-74

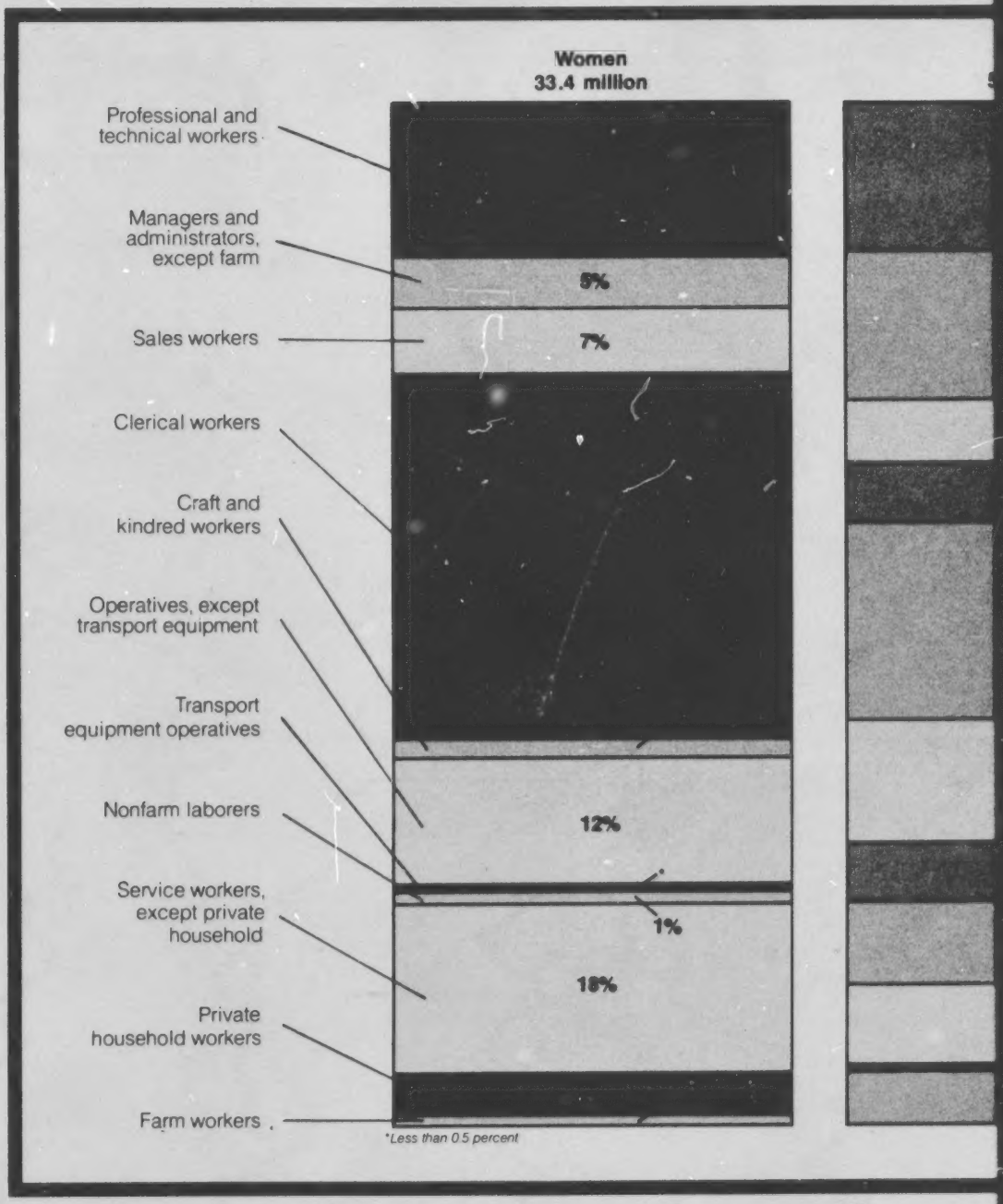
(annual averages)

Since 1950, women have made up an increasing proportion of persons with jobs and of those looking for jobs.

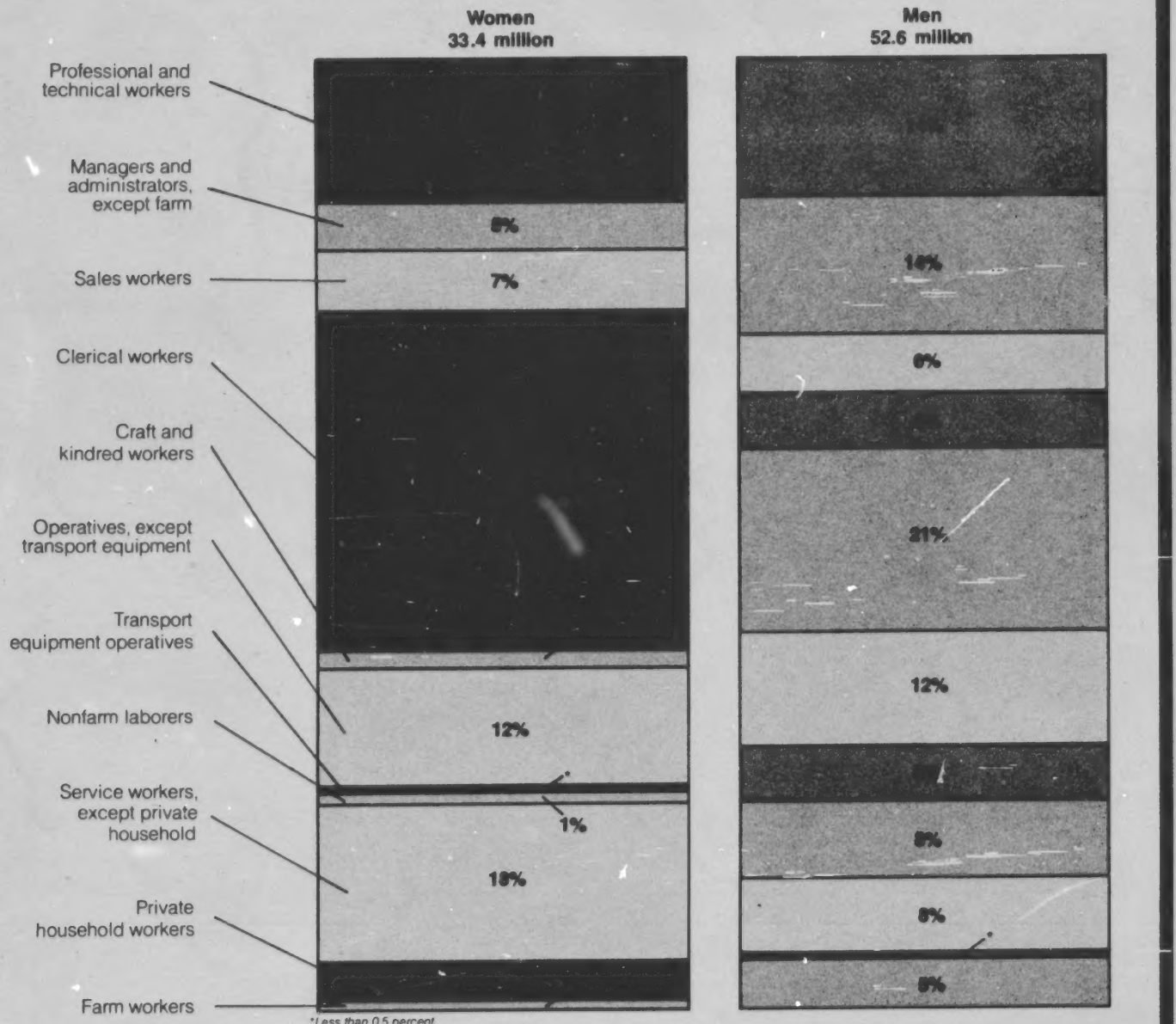
7

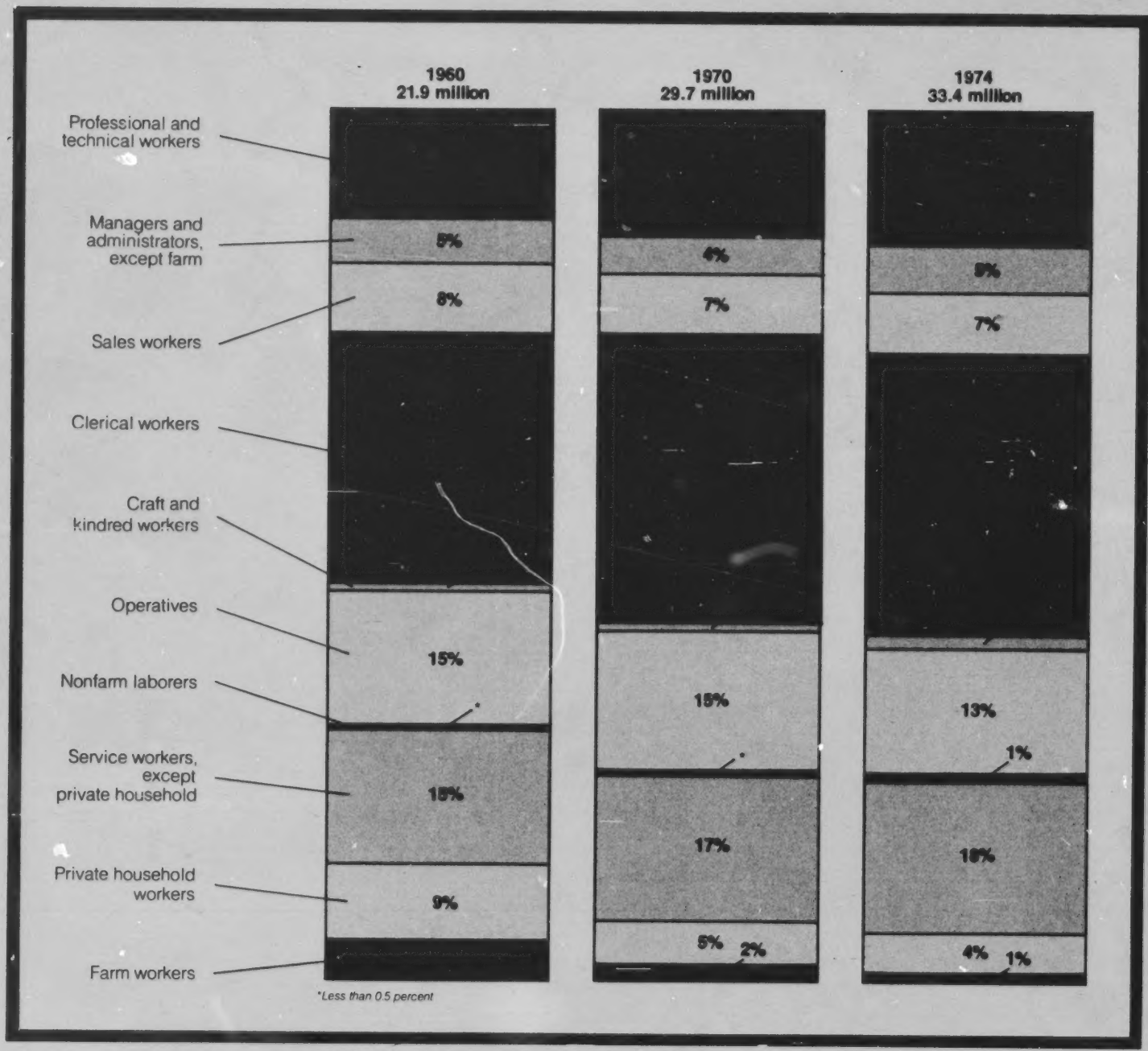
Employed persons by sex and occupation, 1974

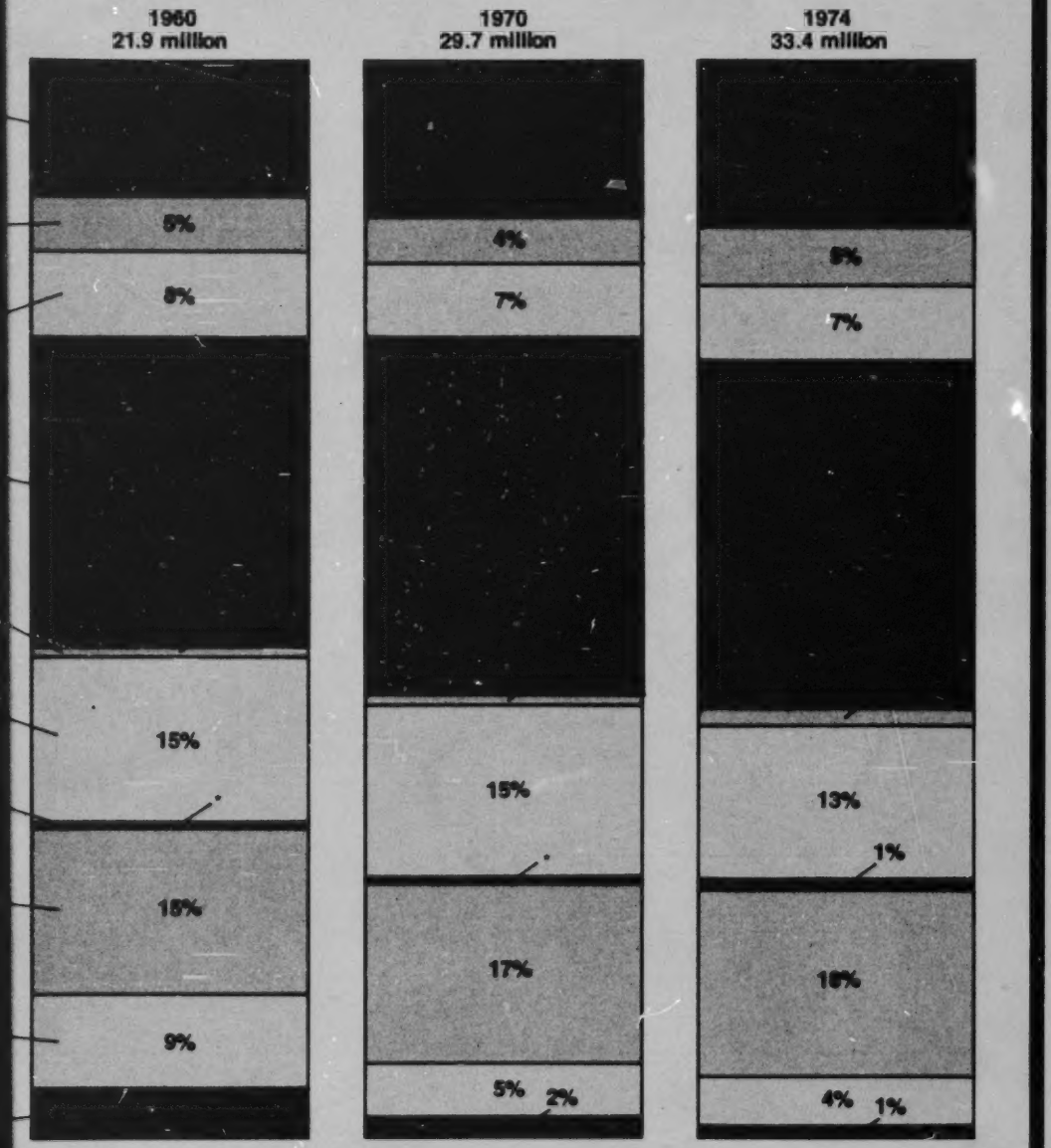
(annual averages)



Women are concentrated in fewer occupational categories than men.


Women
33.4 million
Men
52.6 million
Professional and technical workers
Managers and administrators, except farm
Sales workers
Clerical workers
Craft and kindred workers
Operatives, except transport equipment
Transport equipment operatives
Nonfarm laborers
Service workers, except private household
Private household workers
Farm workers
8%
7%
12%
1%
18%
14%
6%
21%
12%
8%
8%
*Less than 0.5 percent


1960
21.9 million
1970
29.7 million
1974
33.4 million
Professional and technical workers
Managers and administrators, except farm
Sales workers
Clerical workers
Craft and kindred workers
Operatives
Nonfarm laborers
Service workers, except private household
Private household workers
Farm workers
8%
8%
15%
18%
9%
4%
7%
15%
17%
5%
2%
8%
7%
13%
1%
18%
4%
1%
*Less than 0.5 percent



*Less than 0.5 percent

8

Employed women by occupation, 1960, 1970, and 1974

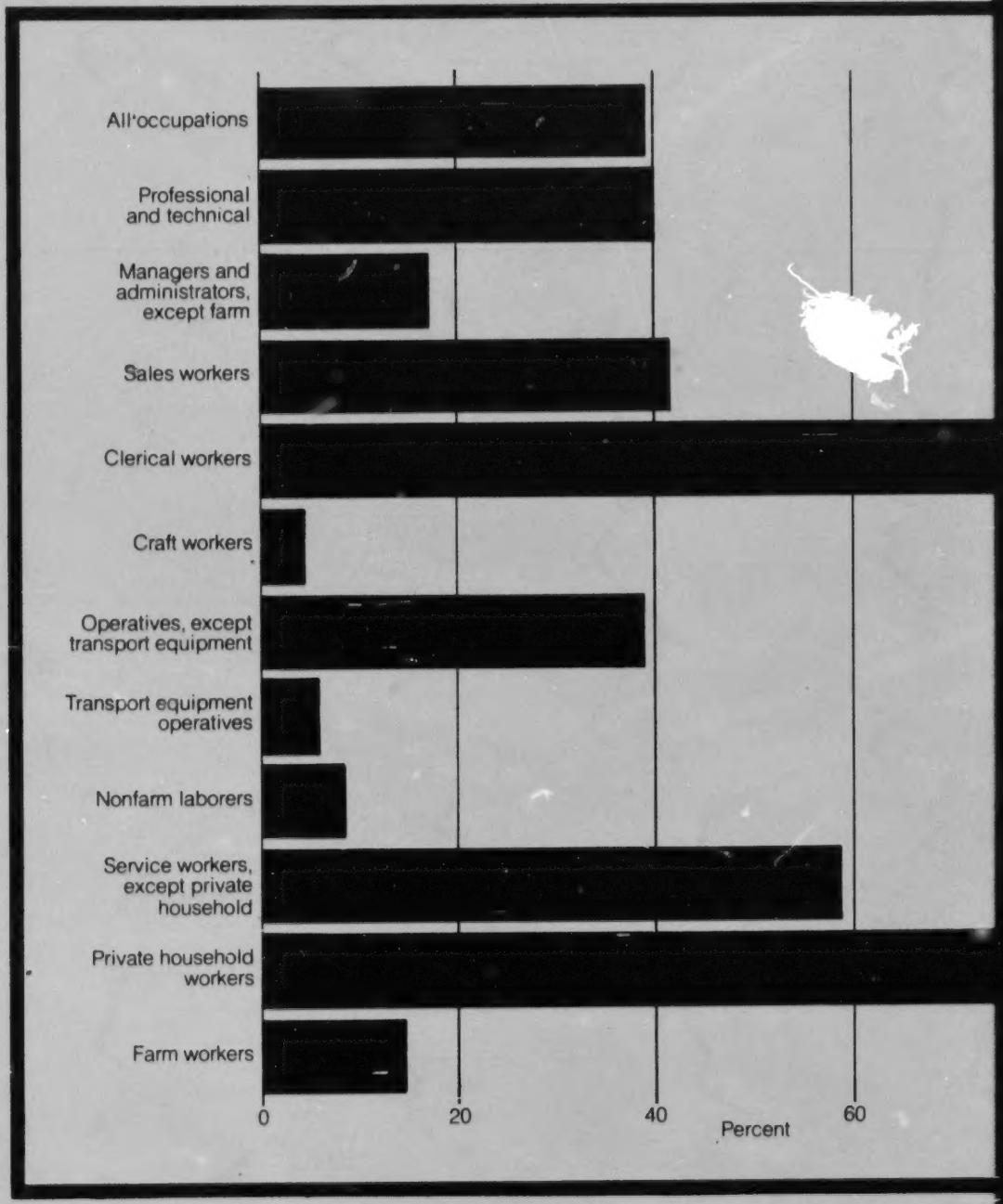
(annual averages)

The proportion of women employed as private household and farm workers has been declining and the proportion in professional-technical, clerical, and service jobs increasing.

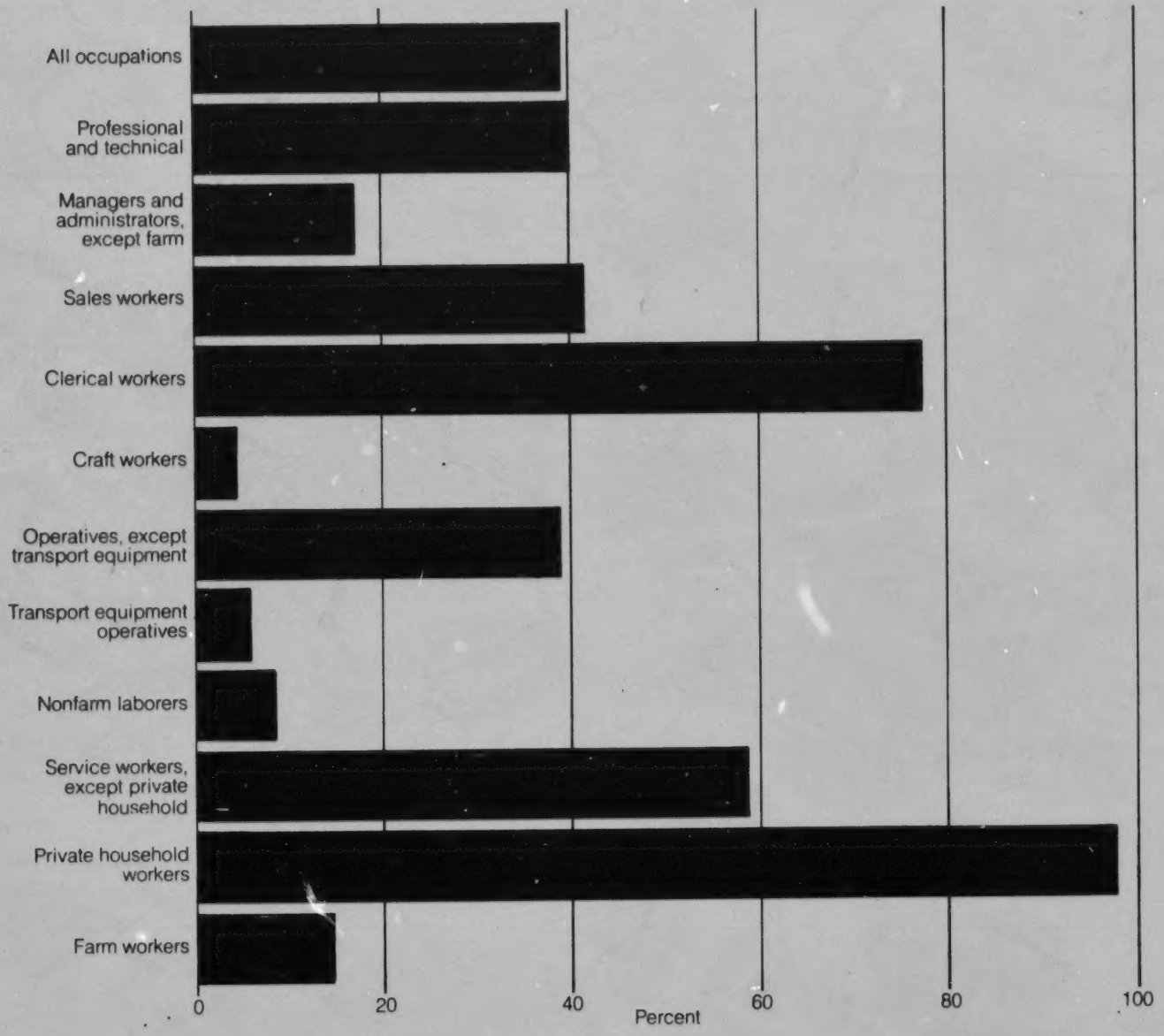
9

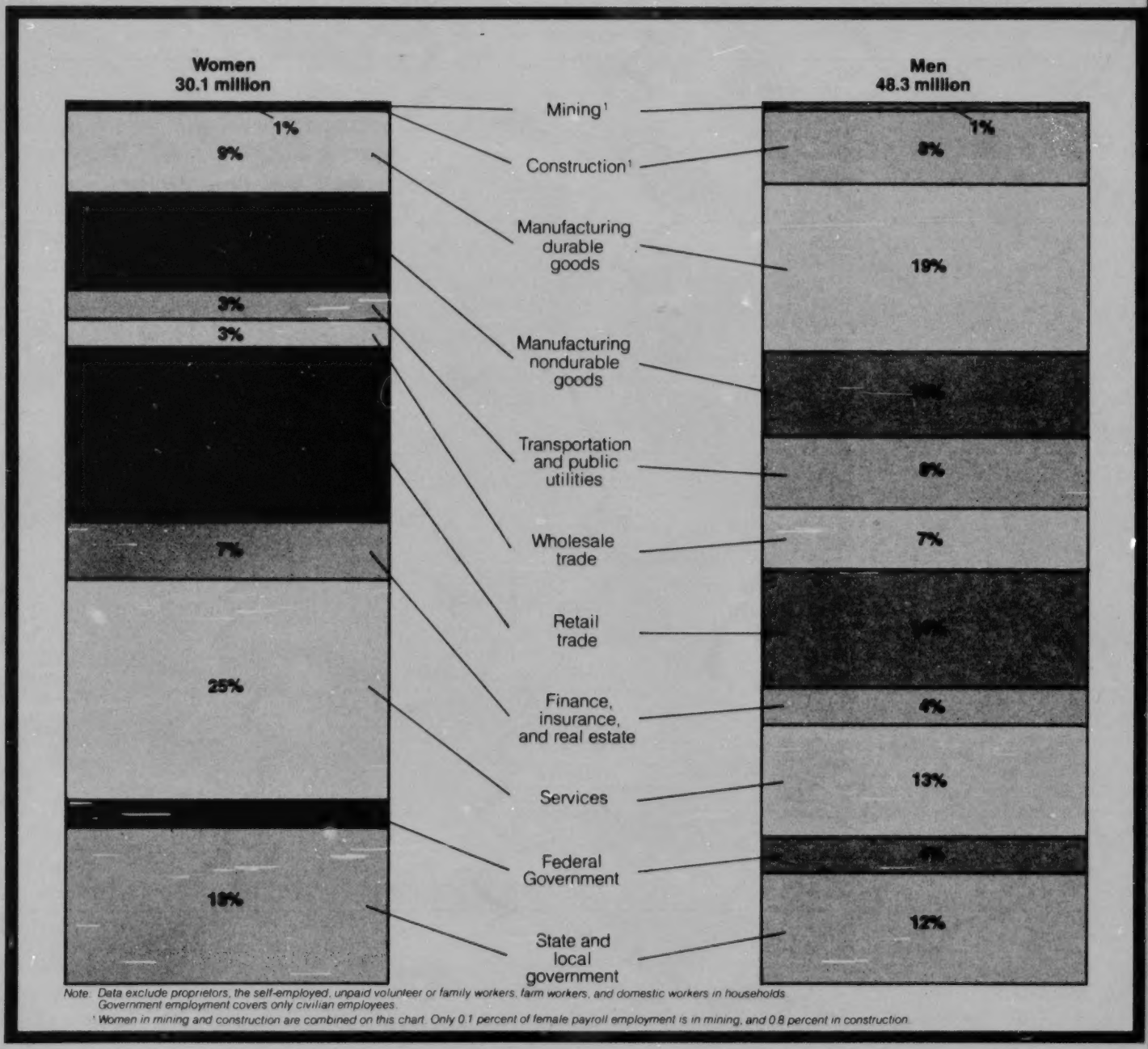
Women as a proportion of all workers by occupation, 1974

(annual averages)



The majority of clerical and service jobs are held by women; they make up about 40 percent of professional-technical, sales, and operative workers.


All occupations
Professional and technical
Managers and administrators, except farm
Sales workers
Clerical workers
Craft workers
Operatives, except transport equipment
Transport equipment operatives
Nonfarm laborers
Service workers, except private household
Private household workers
Farm workers
0
20
40
60
80
100
Percent



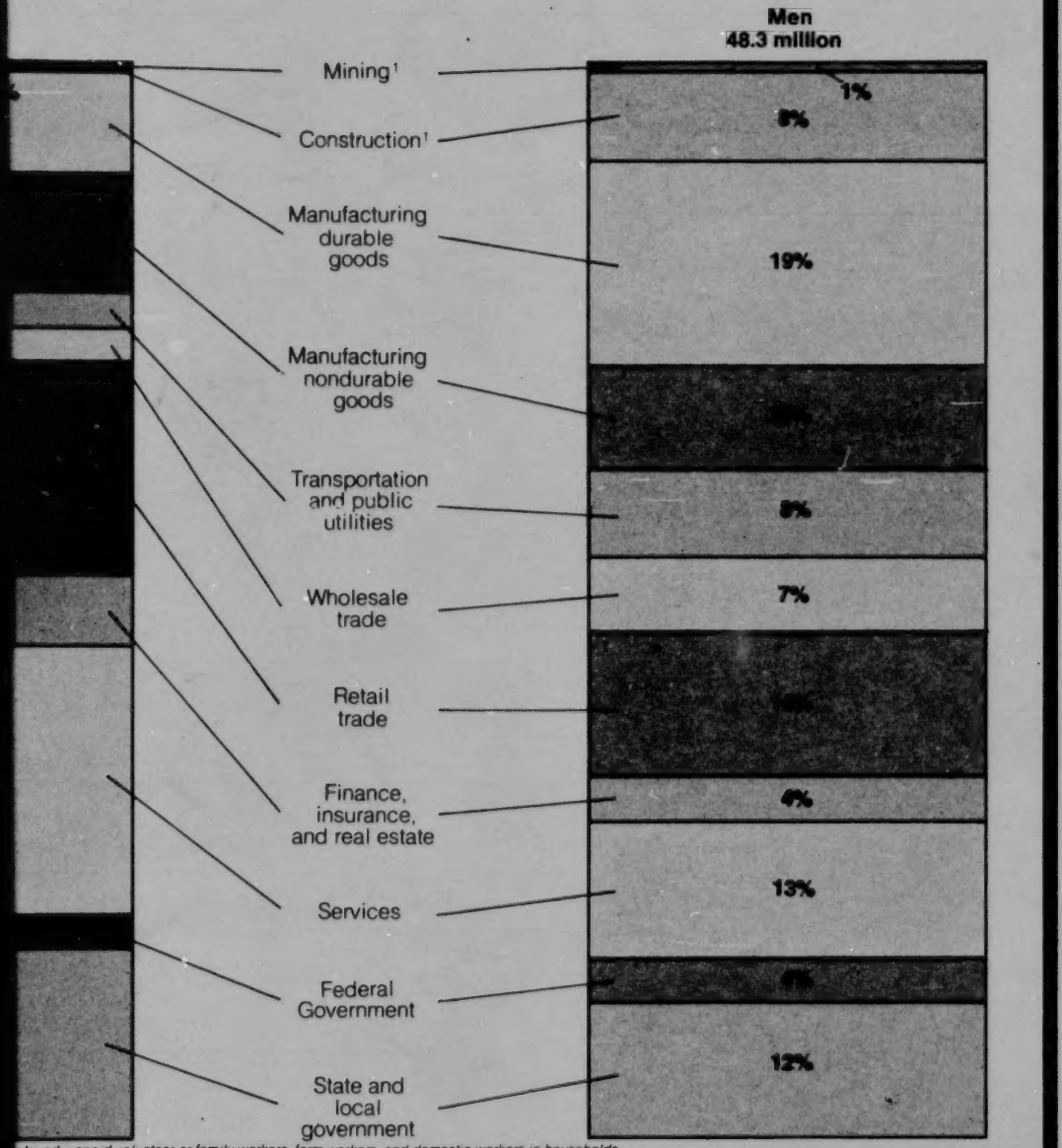
Note: Data exclude proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers in households. Government employment covers only civilian employees.

[1] *Women in mining and construction are combined on this chart. Only 0.1 percent of female payroll employment is in mining, and 0.8 percent in construction.*

10

Persons on nonagricultural payrolls by sex and industry, 1974

(annual averages)



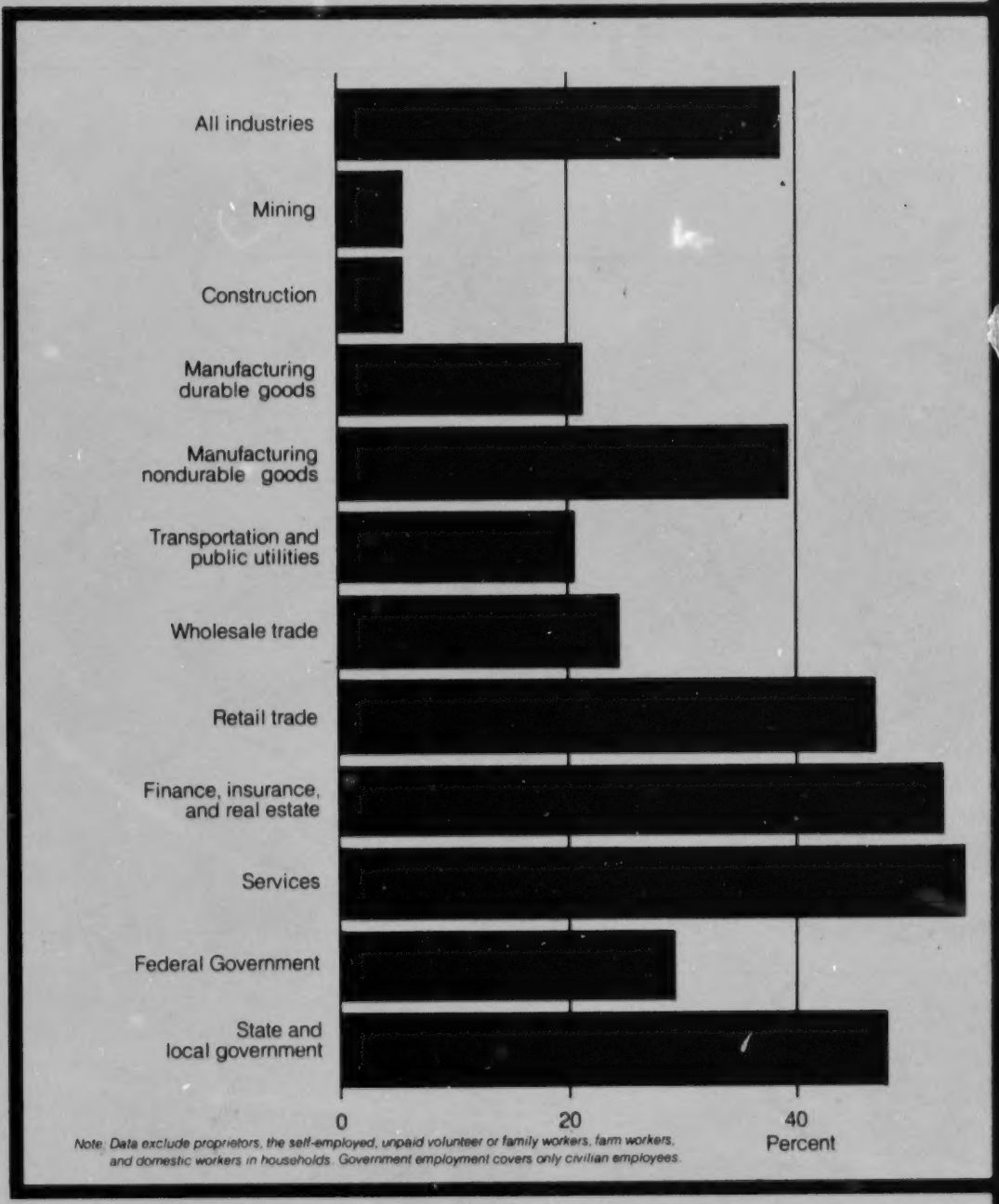
Women are more likely than men to be concentrated in the retail trade and service industries and State and local governments.

ployed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers in households.
civilian employees.
e combined on this chart. Only 0.1 percent of female payroll employment is in mining, and 0.8 percent in construction.

11

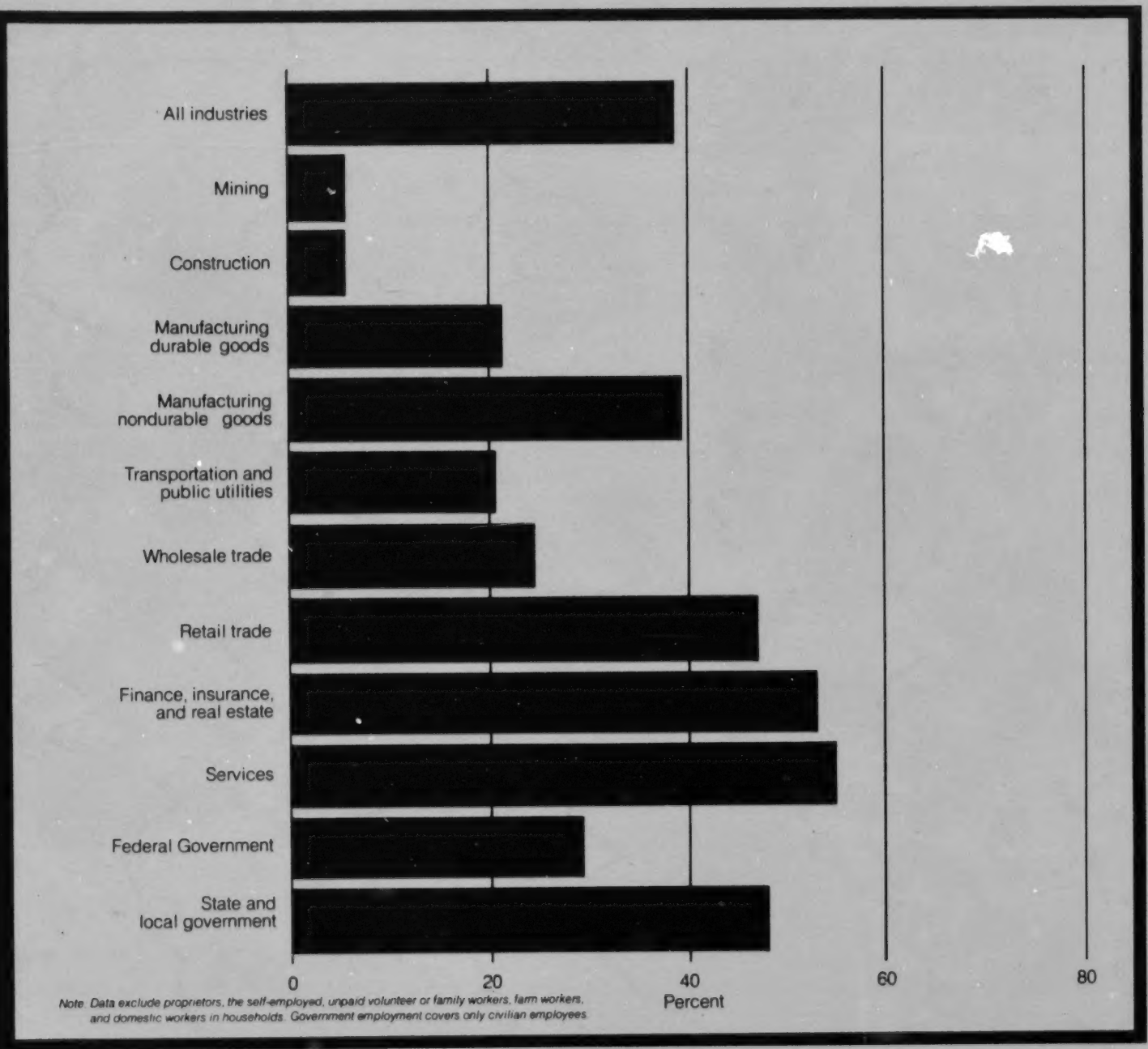
Women as a proportion of all persons on nonagricultural payrolls by industry, 1974

(annual averages)

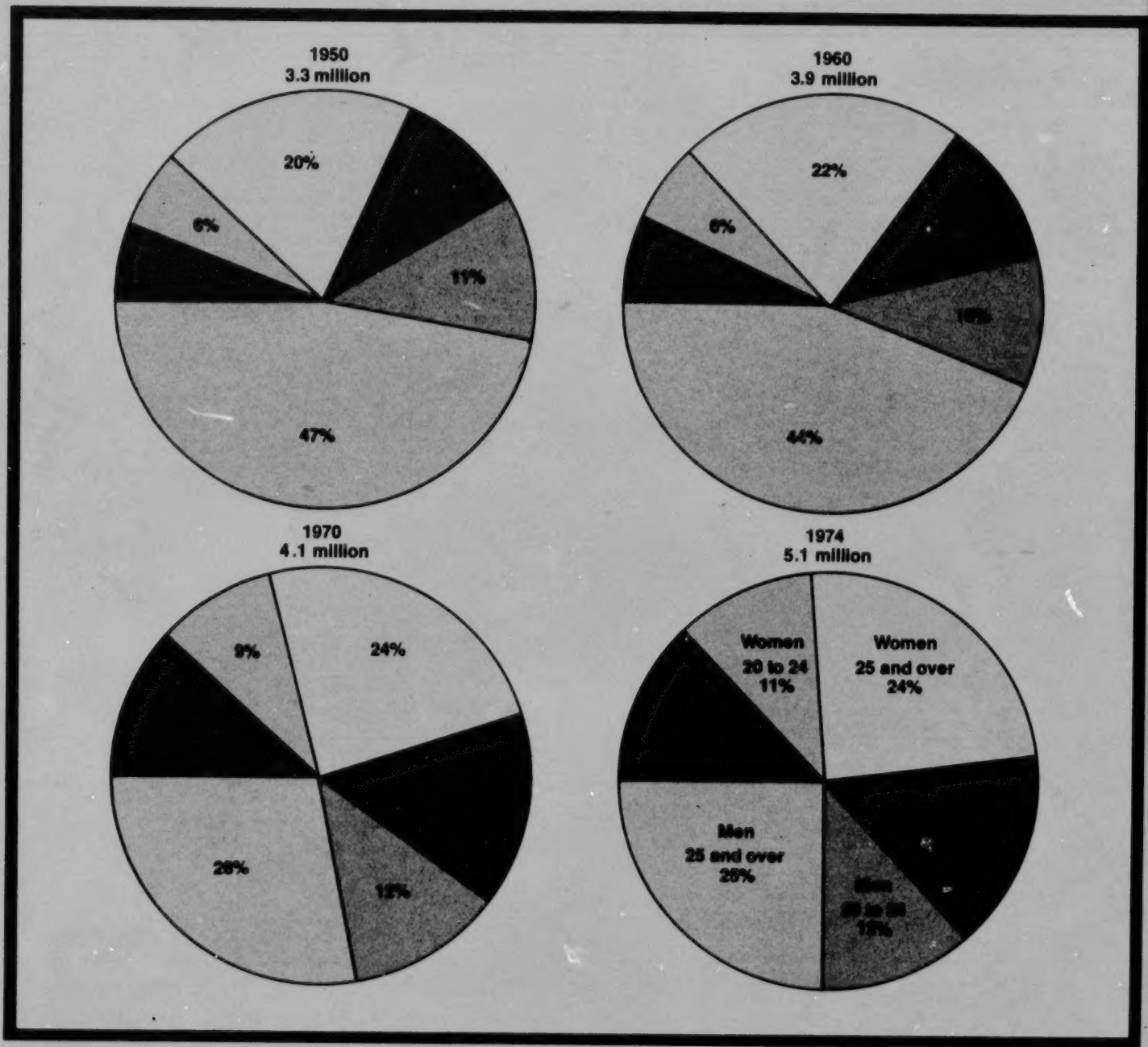


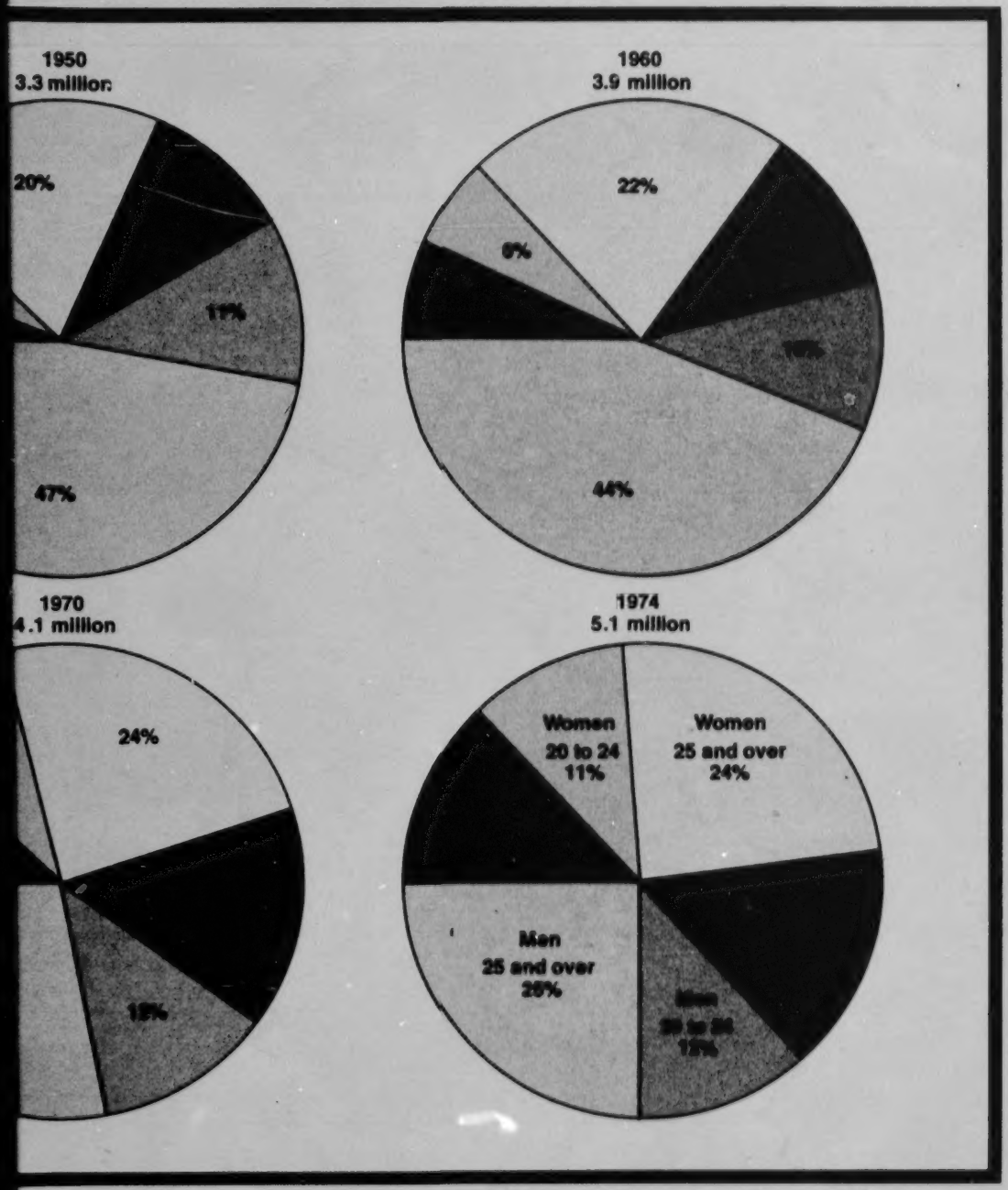
Note: Data exclude proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers in households. Government employment covers only civilian employees.

Women constitute about half the workers in the retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and service industries and on State and local government payrolls.



Note: Data exclude proprietors, the self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, farm workers, and domestic workers in households. Government employment covers only civilian employees.


1950
3.3 million
20%
6%
11%
47%
1960
3.9 million
22%
6%
44%
1970
4.1 million
9%
24%
28%
1974
5.1 million
Women
20 to 24
11%
Women
25 and over
24%
Men
25 and over
28%



12

Unemployed persons by sex and age, selected years, 1950-74

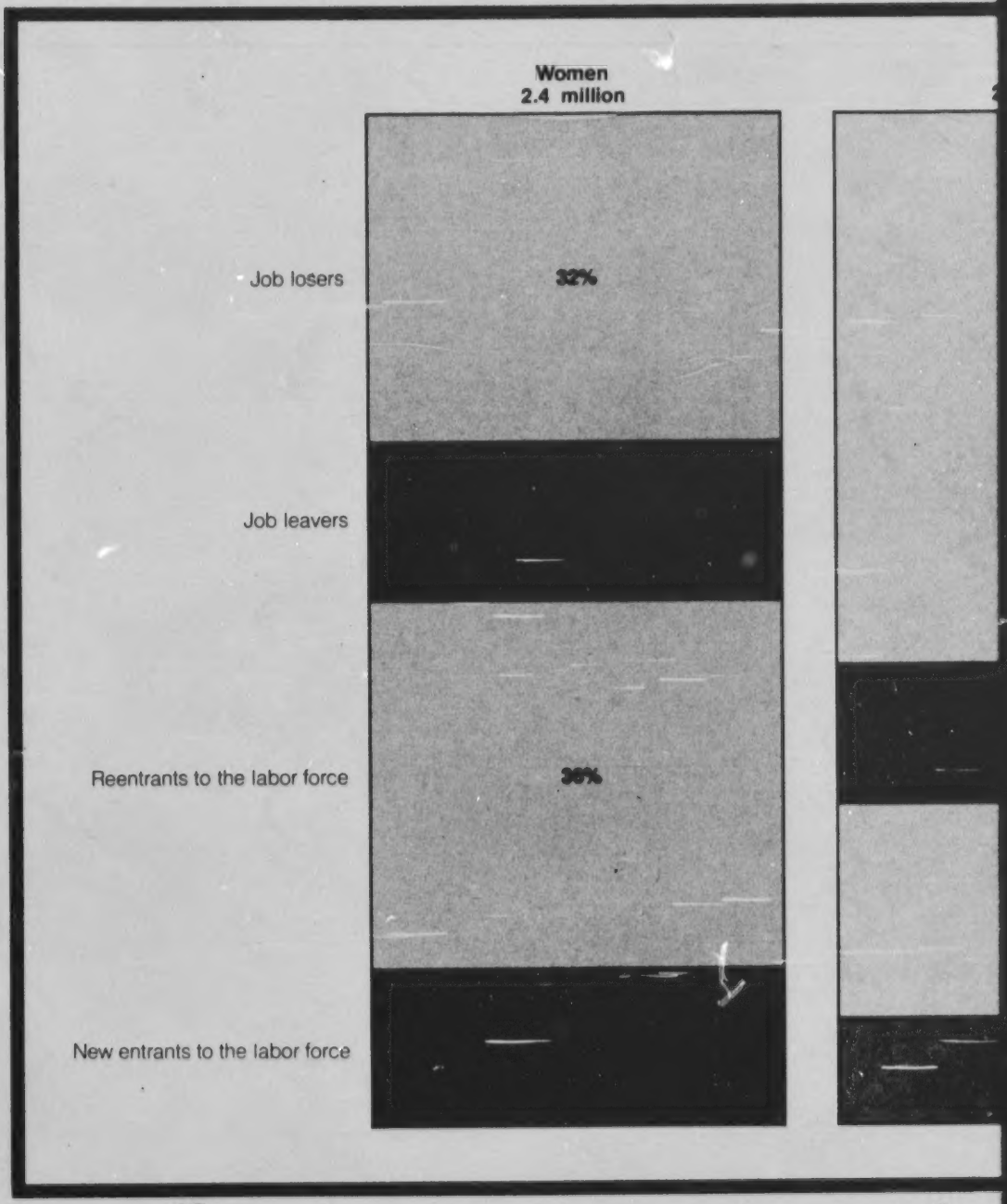
(annual averages)

Teen-age and young adult women have become a larger share of the unemployed.

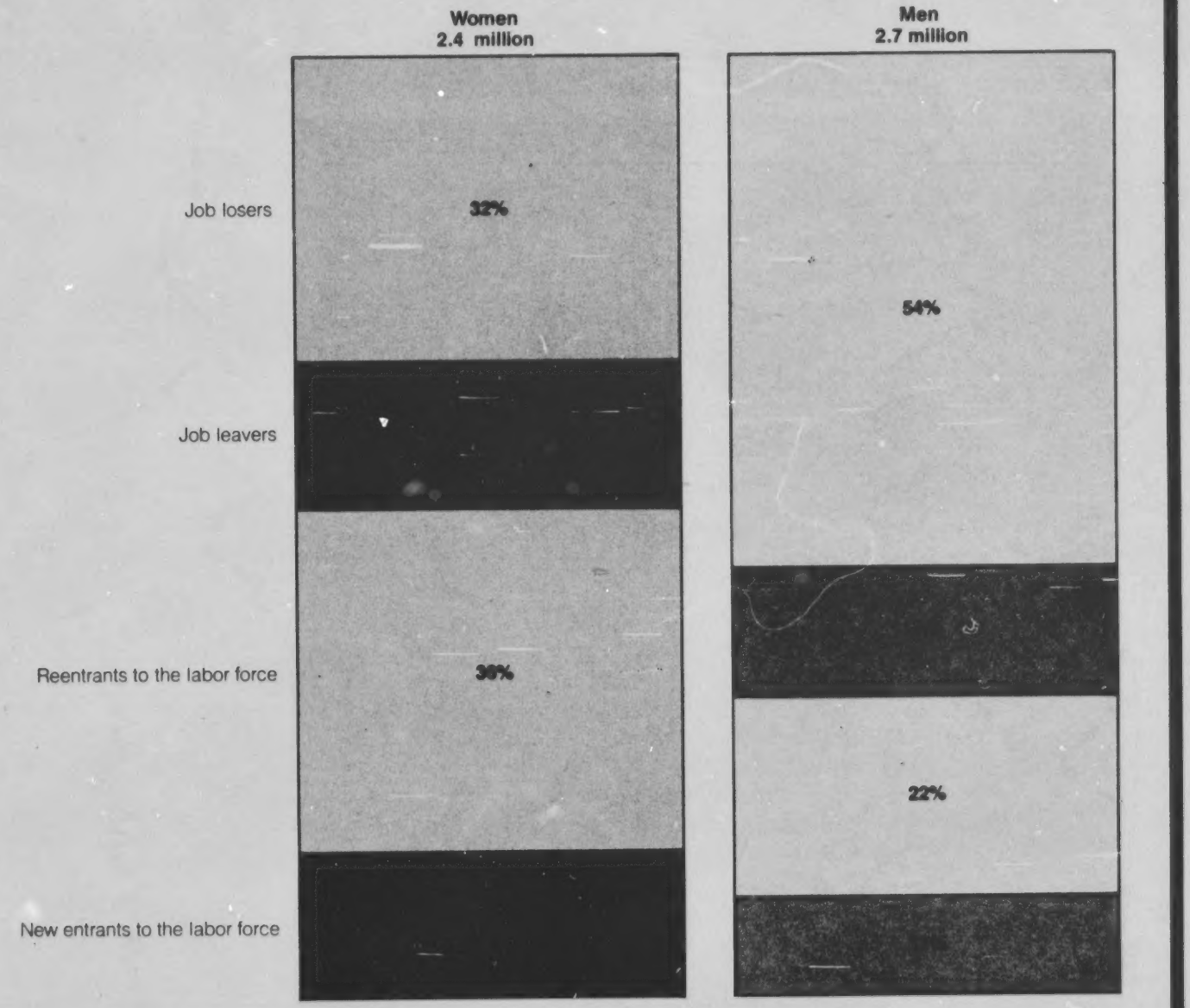
13

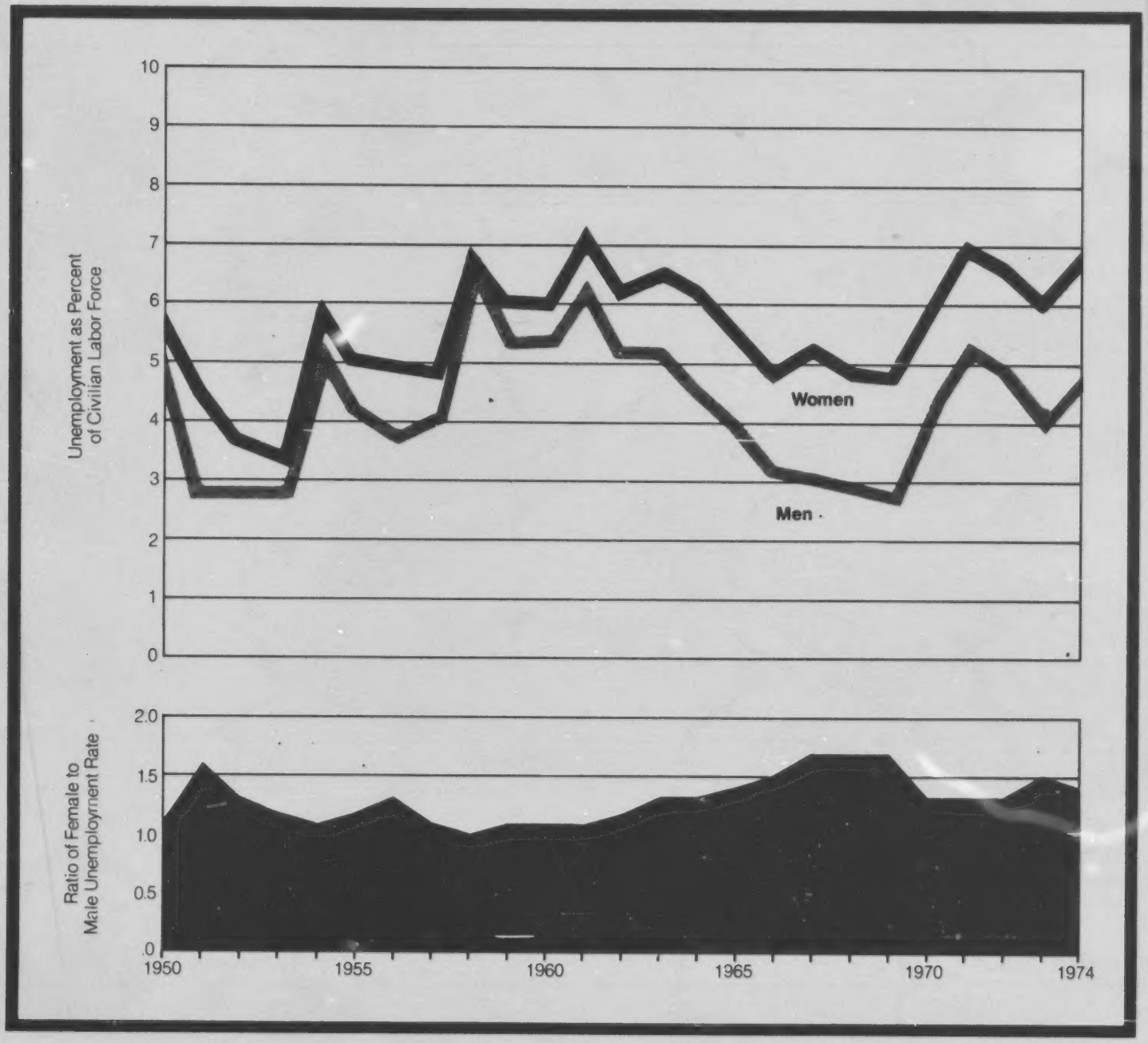
Unemployed persons by sex and reason for unemployment, 1974

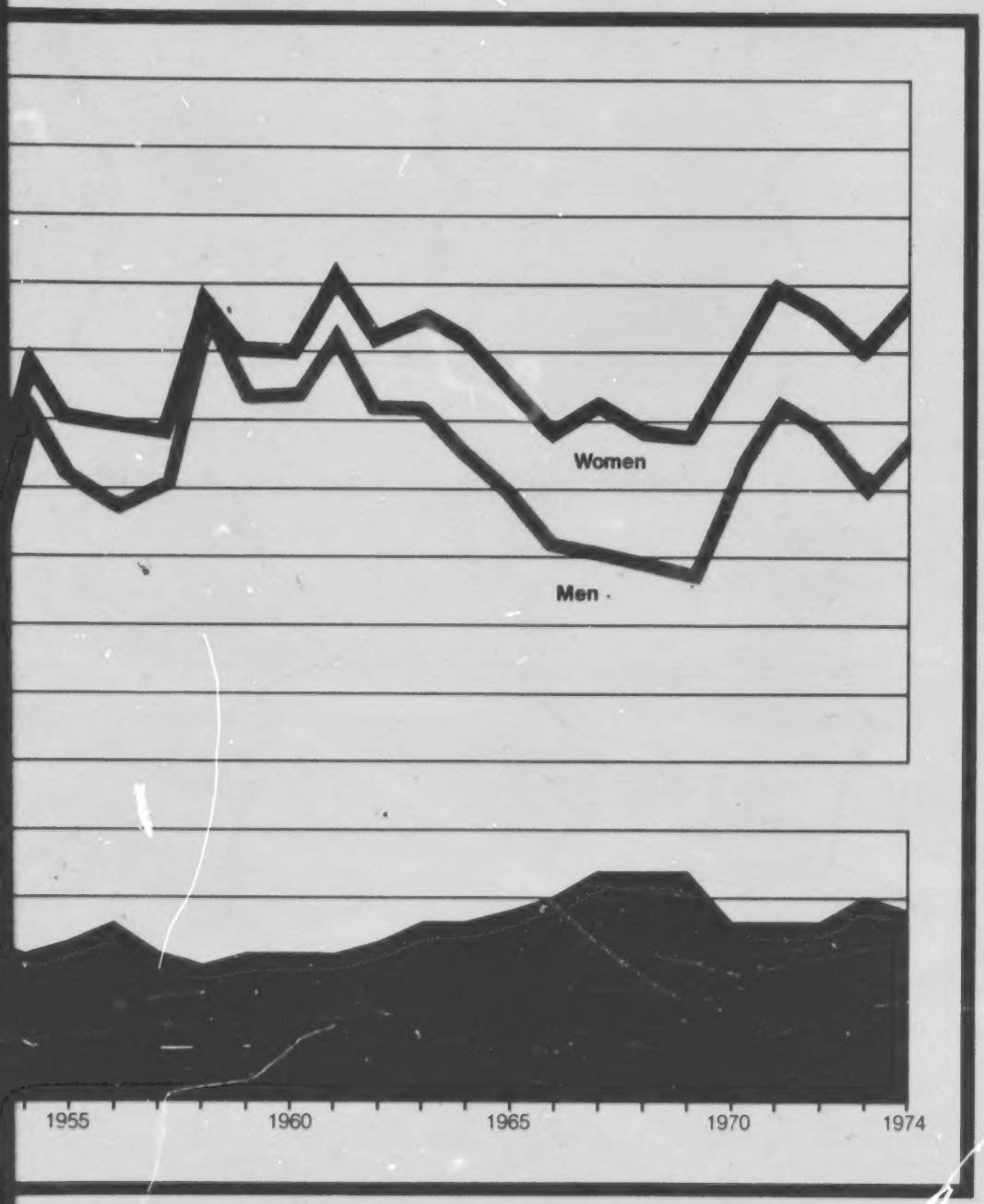
(annual averages)



Unemployed women are much less likely than unemployed men to have lost their job; they are more likely to be reentering or entering the labor force.


Women
2.4 million
Men
2.7 million
Job losers
32%
54%
Job leavers
Reentrants to the labor force
36%
22%
New entrants to the labor force


Unemployment as Percent of Civilian Labor Force
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
Women
Men
Ratio of Female to Male Unemployment Rate
2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
.0
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1974



14

Unemployment rates by sex, 1950-74

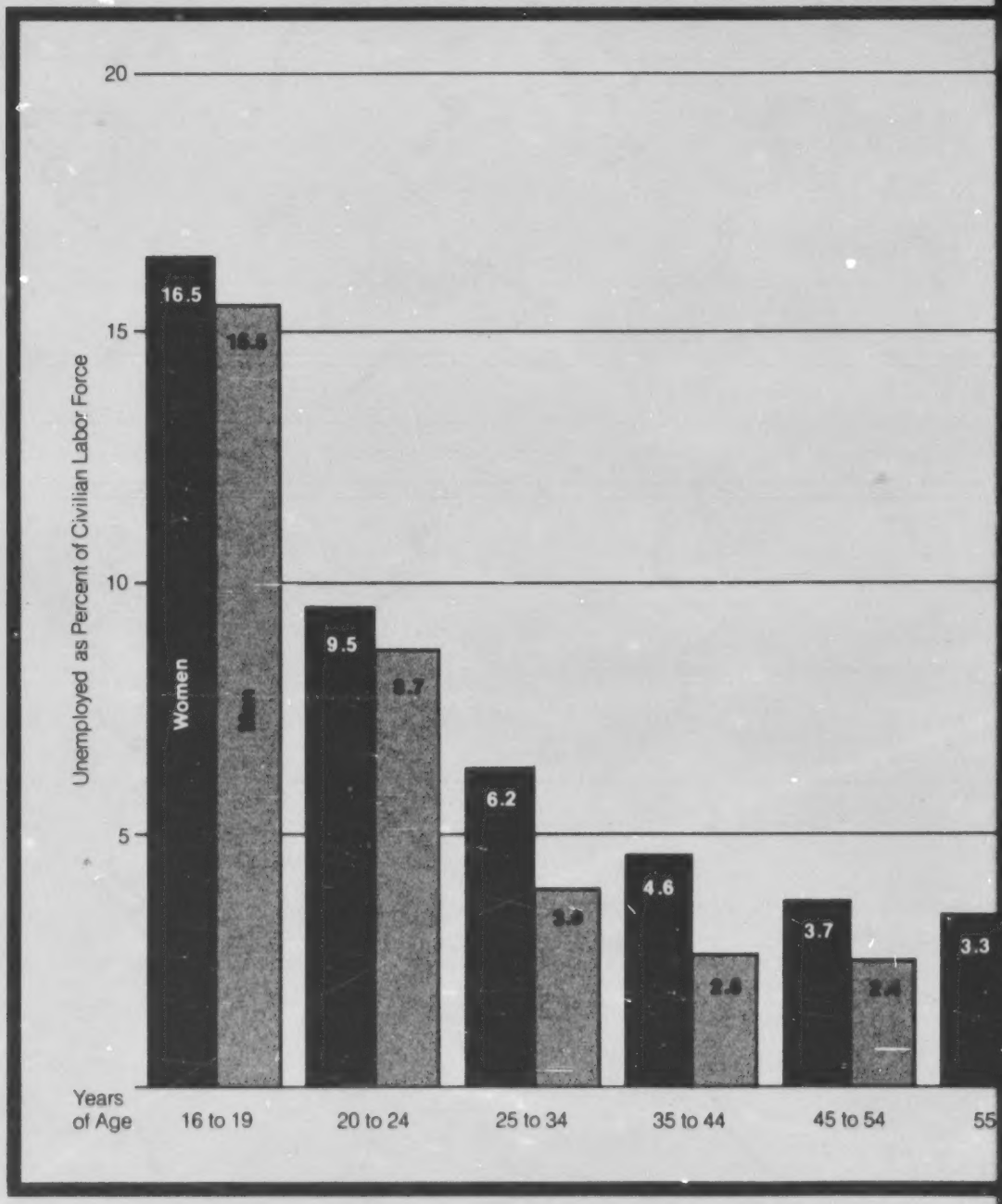
(annual averages)

Unemployment rates are generally higher for women than for men. The gap usually widens as unemployment declines.

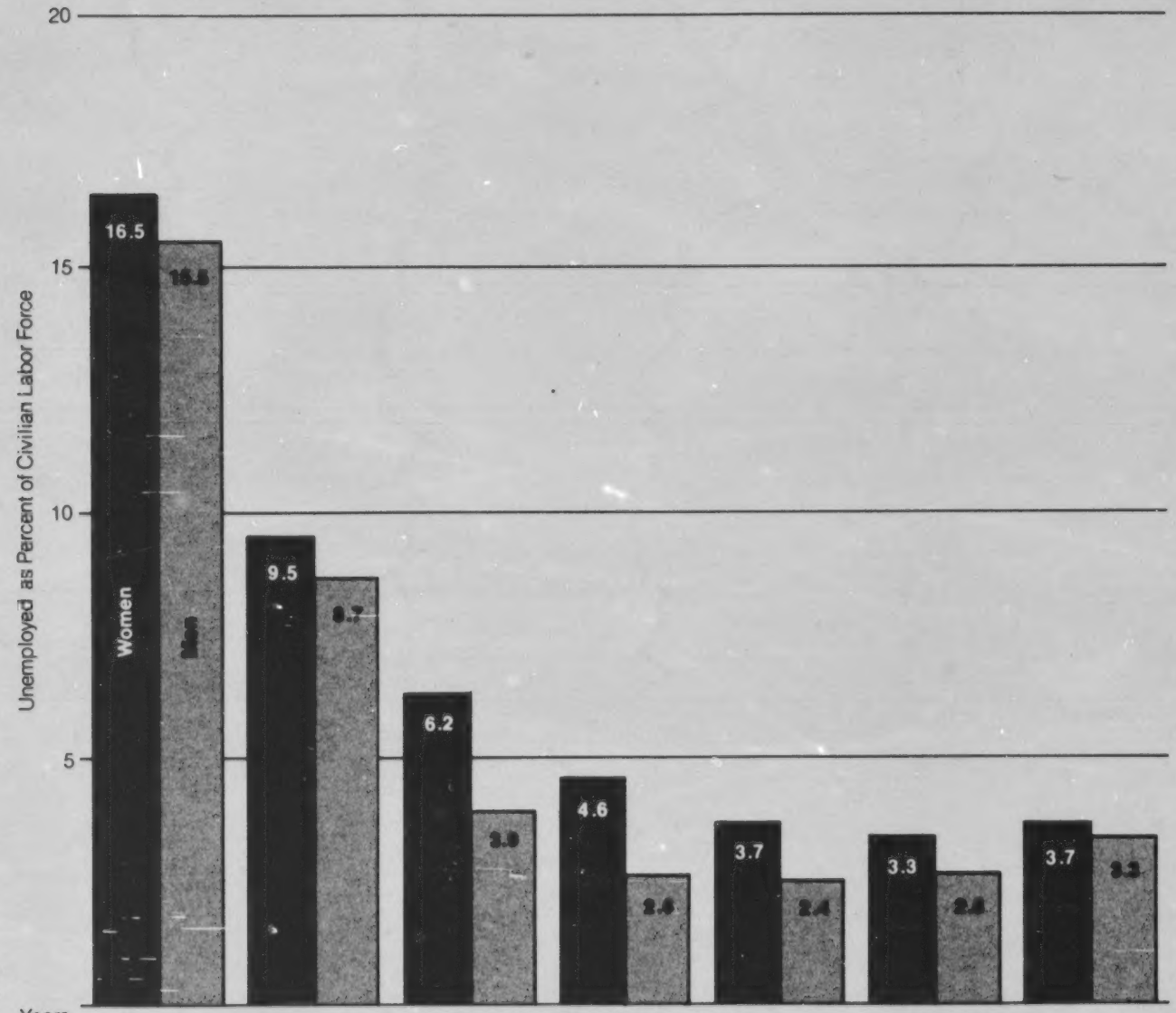
15

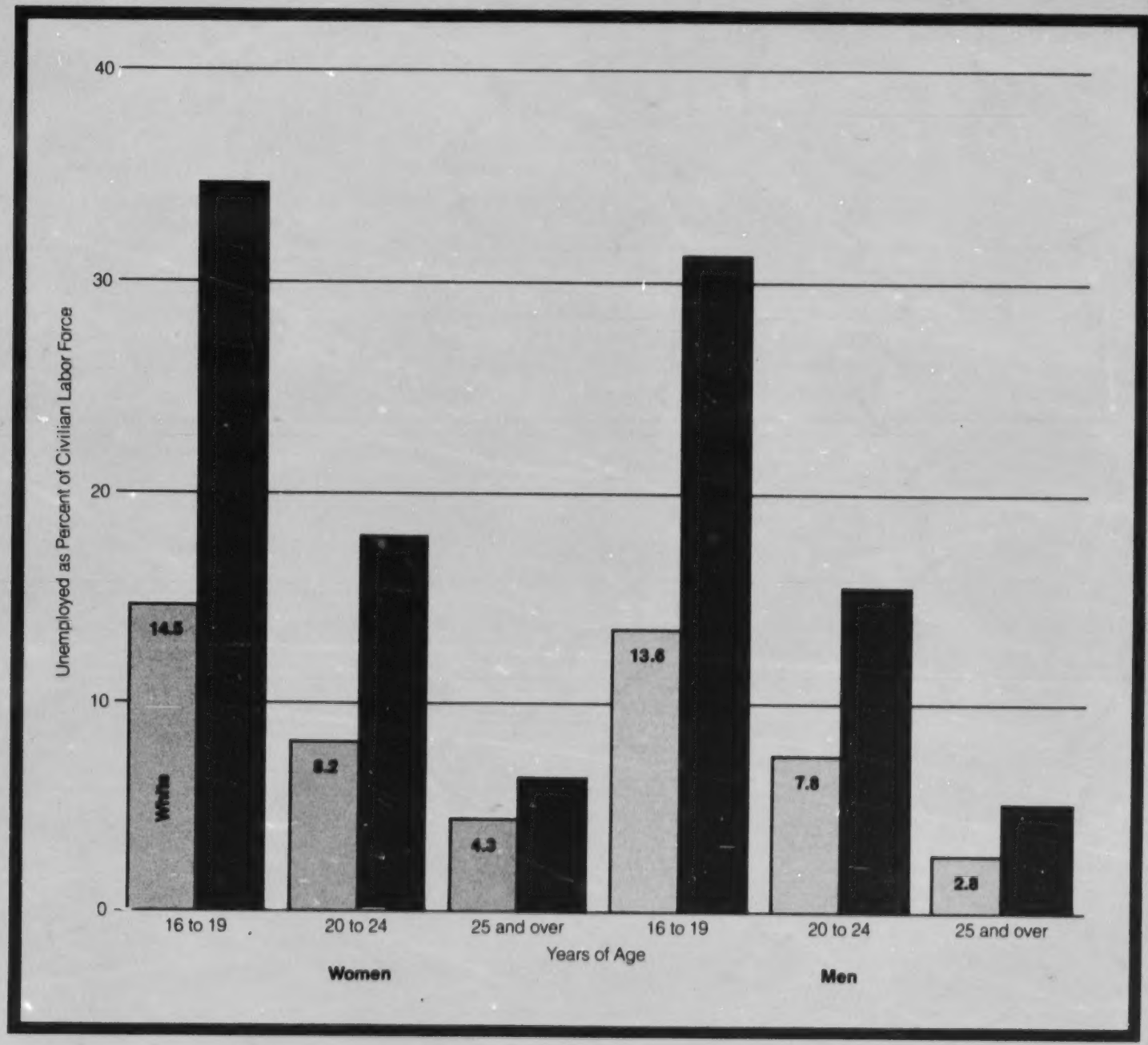
Unemployment rates by sex and age, 1974

(annual averages)



In the prime working age groups, women have substantially higher unemployment rates than men.

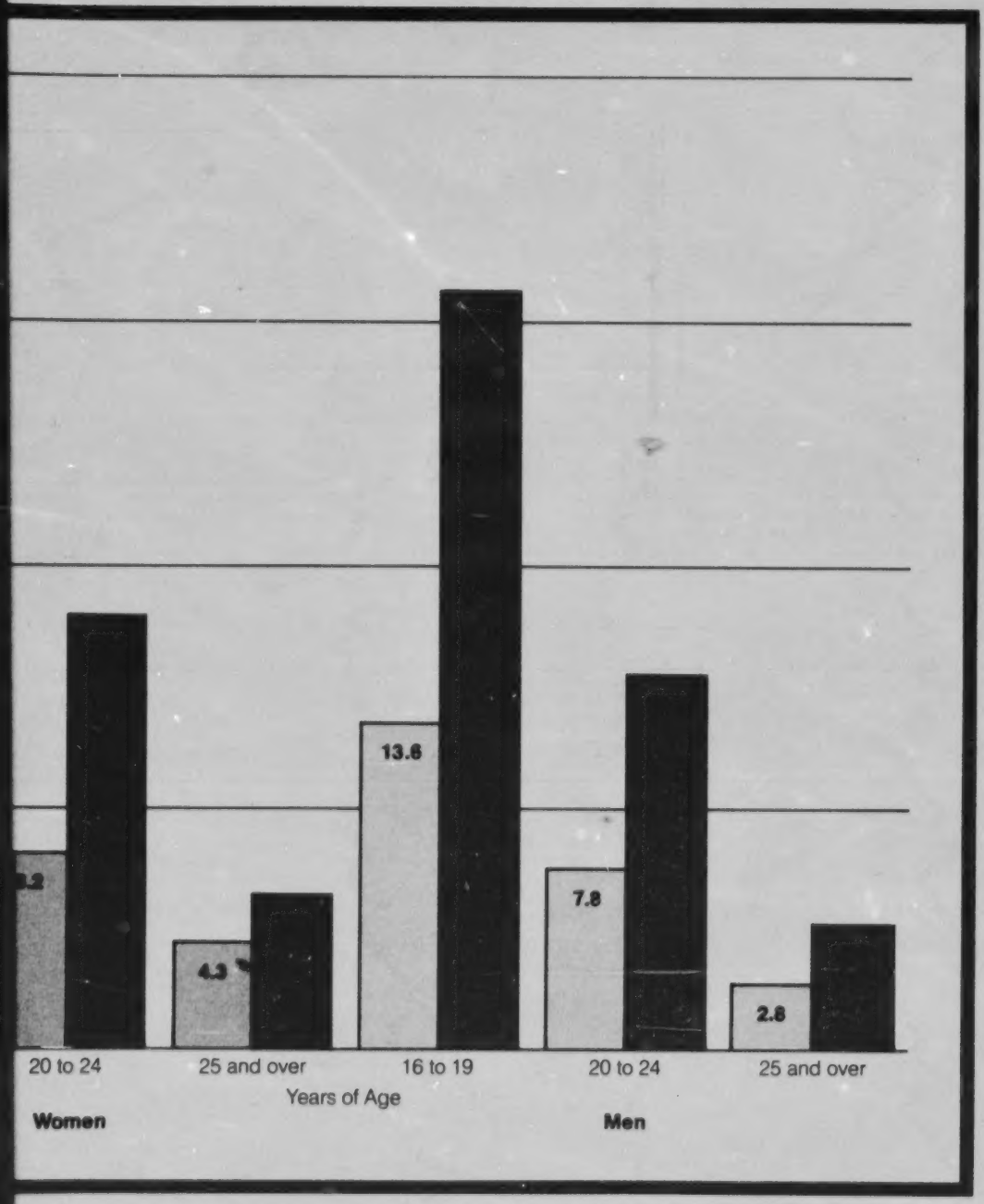

20
15
10
5
Unemployed as Percent of Civilian Labor Force
16.5
Women
9.5
6.2
4.6
3.7
3.3
3.7
Years of Age
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 to 34
35 to 44
45 to 54
55 to 64
65 and over


40
30
20
10
0
Unemployed as Percent of Civilian Labor Force
14.5
White
8.2
4.3
13.8
7.8
2.8
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 and over
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 and over
Years of Age
Women
Men

16

Unemployment rates by sex, age, and race, 1974

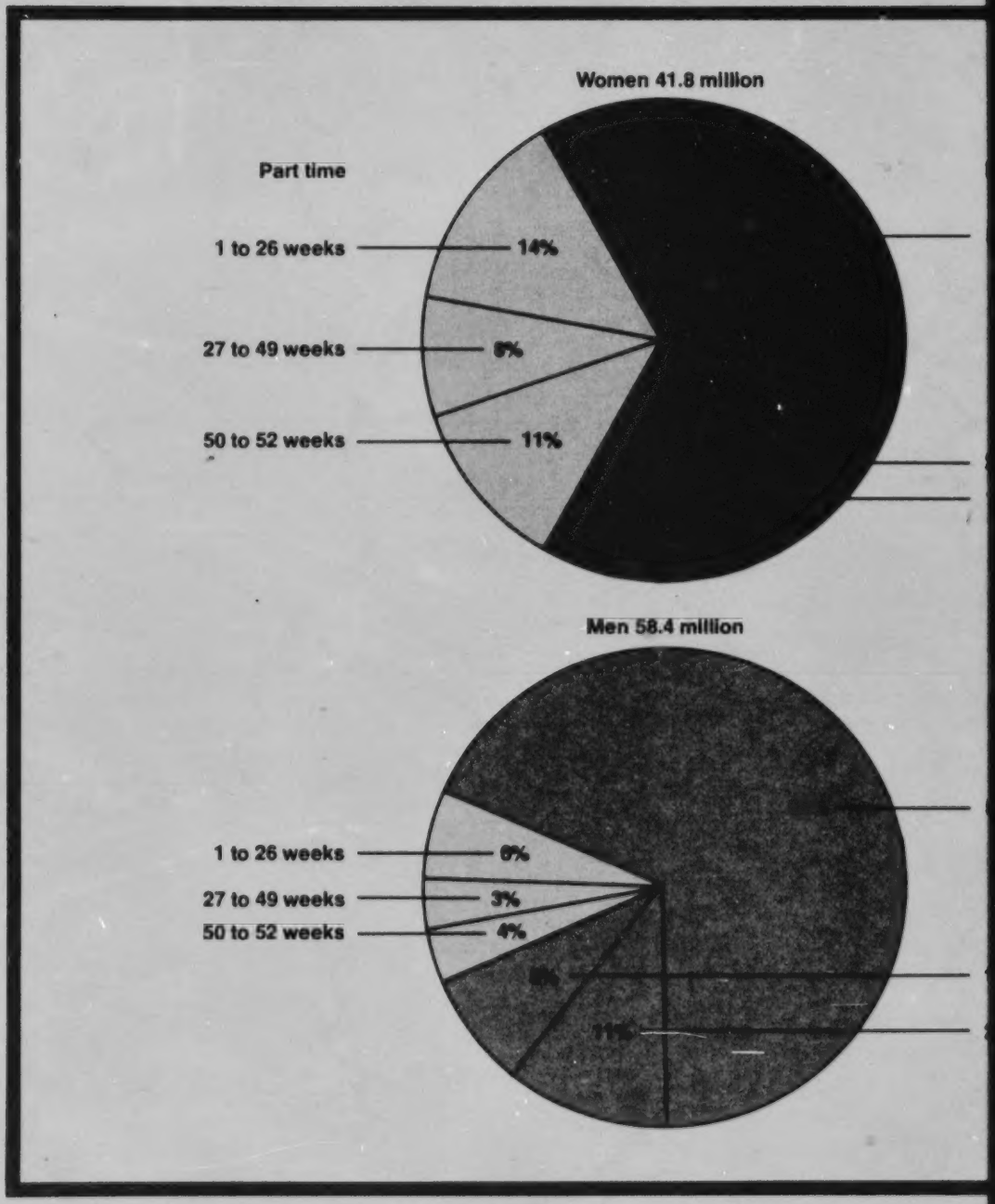
(annual averages)



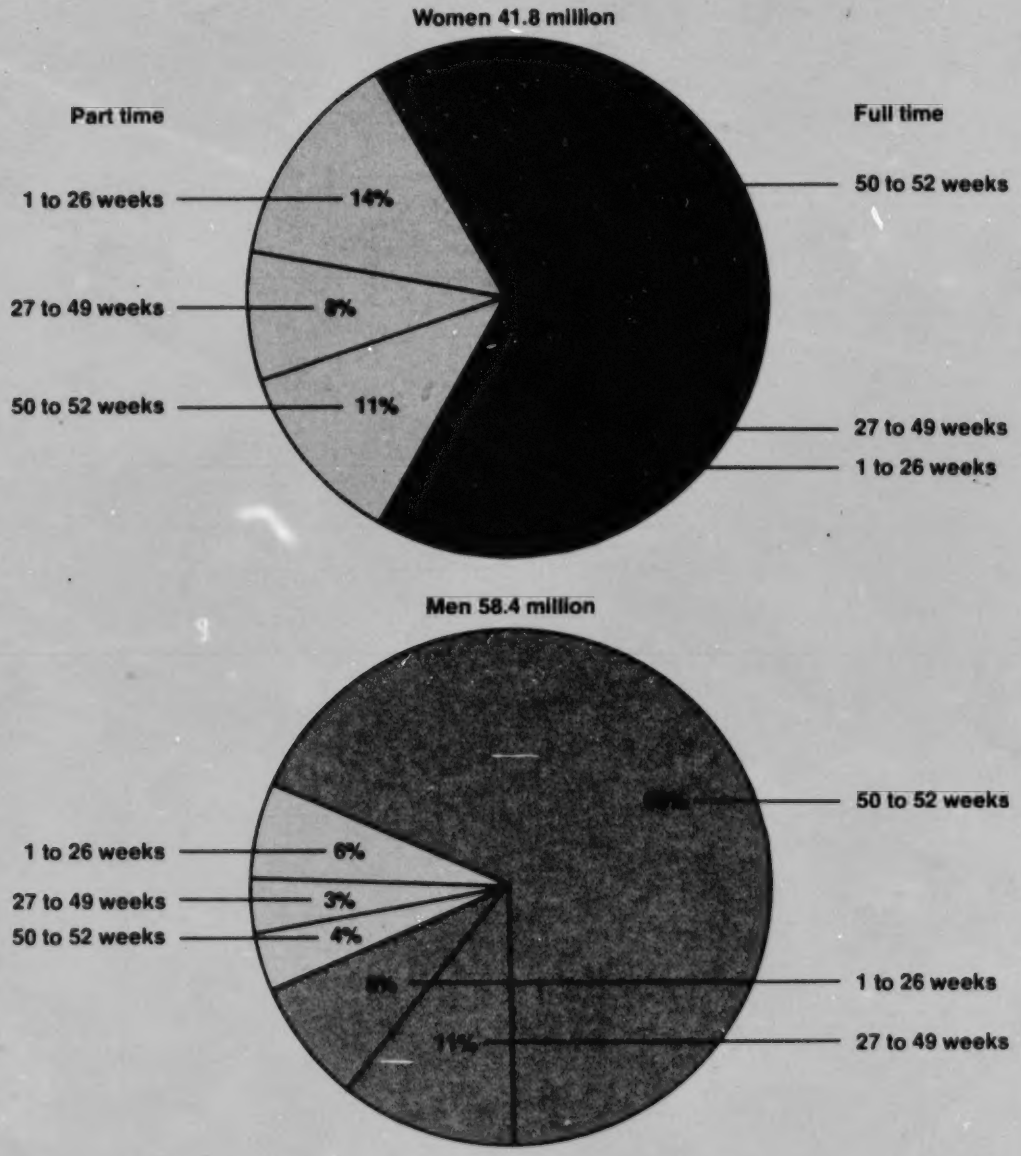
Young women of minority races have the highest unemployment rates.

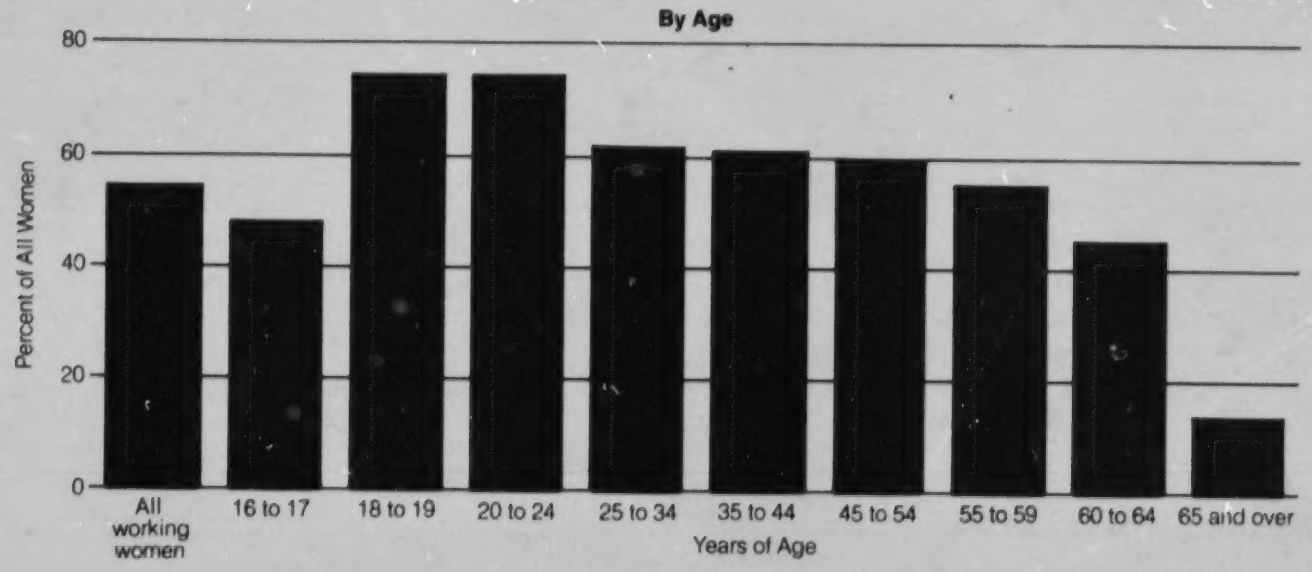
17

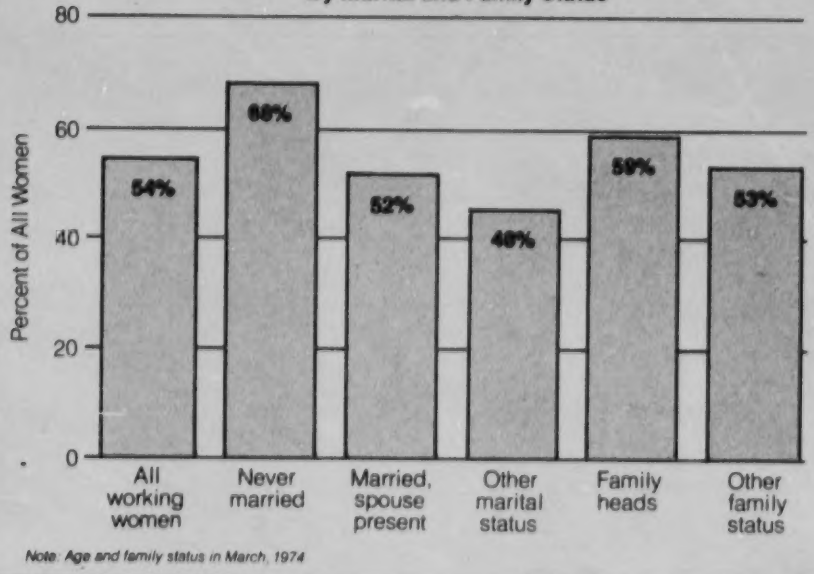
Workers by sex, full- or part-time work experience, and weeks worked, 1973

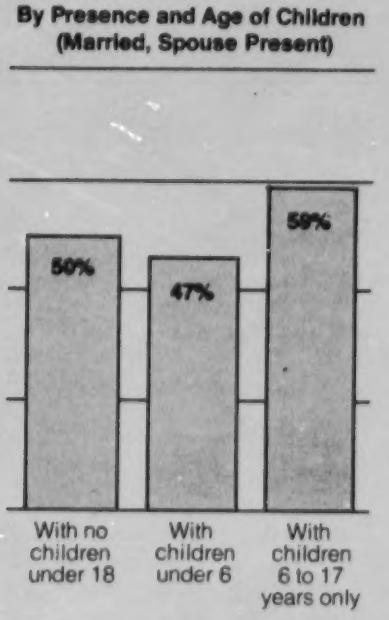


Women workers are less likely than men to hold year-round full-time jobs; even so, about two-fifths of the women who worked in 1973 did so on a year-round full-time basis.


Women 41.8 million
Part time
Full time
1 to 26 weeks
14%
27 to 49 weeks
8%
50 to 52 weeks
11%
50 to 52 weeks
27 to 49 weeks
1 to 26 weeks
Men 58.4 million
50 to 52 weeks
1 to 26 weeks
6%
27 to 49 weeks
3%
50 to 52 weeks
4%
1 to 26 weeks
27 to 49 weeks



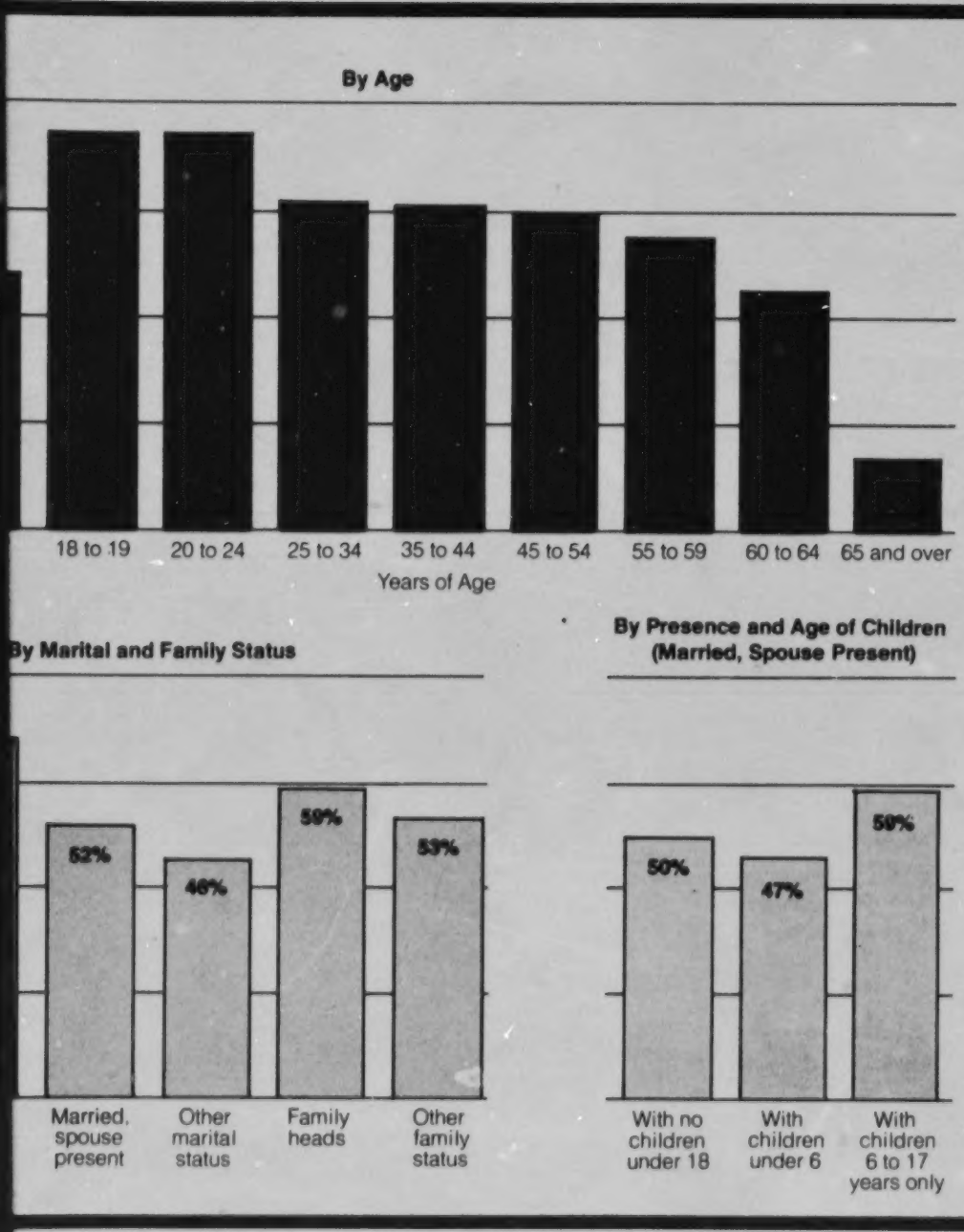



By Presence and Age of Children (Married, Spouse Present)
50%
47%
59%
With no children under 18
With children under 6
With children 6 to 17 years only

Note: Age and family status in March, 1974

18

Women with work experience as a proportion of all women, 1973

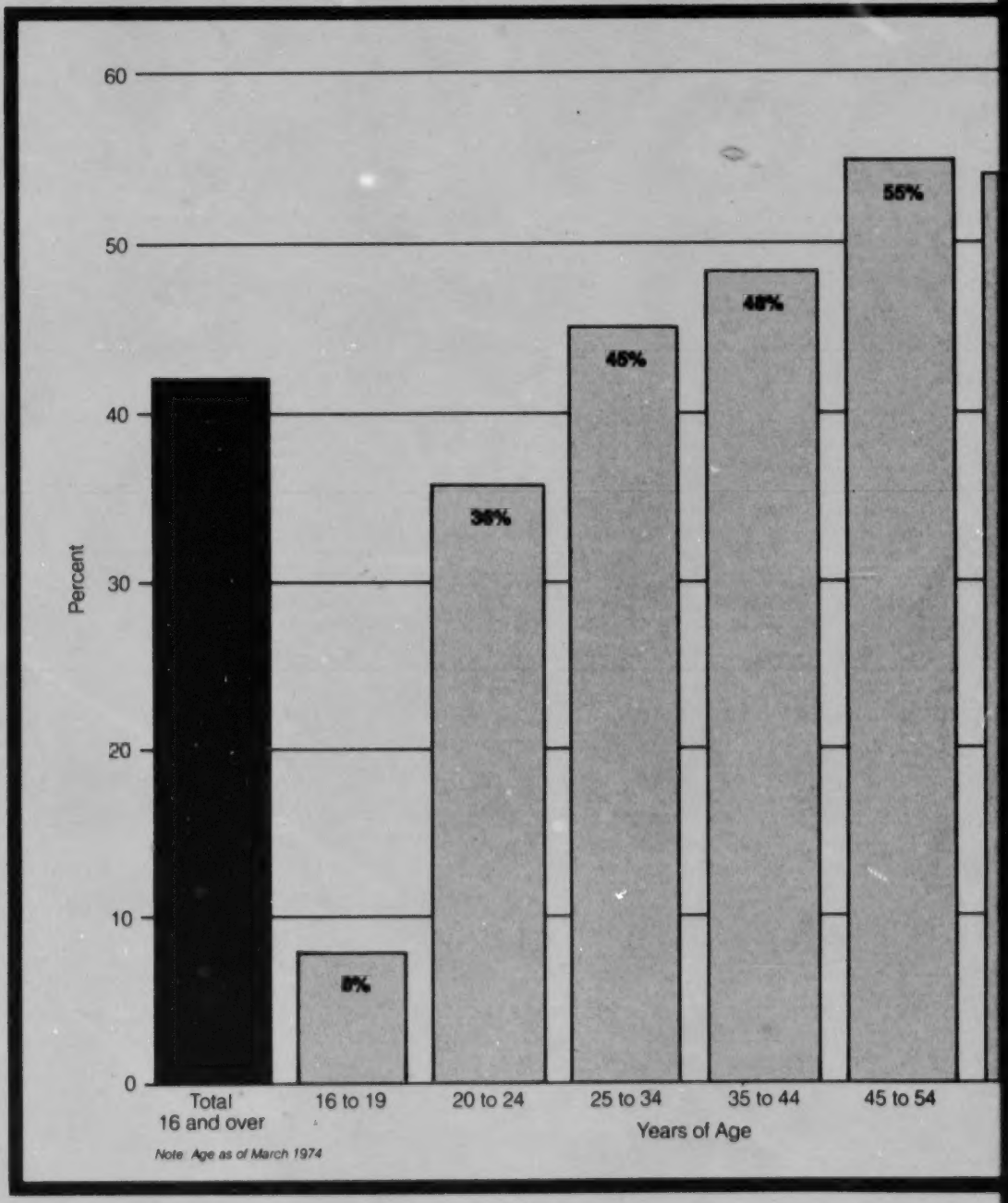


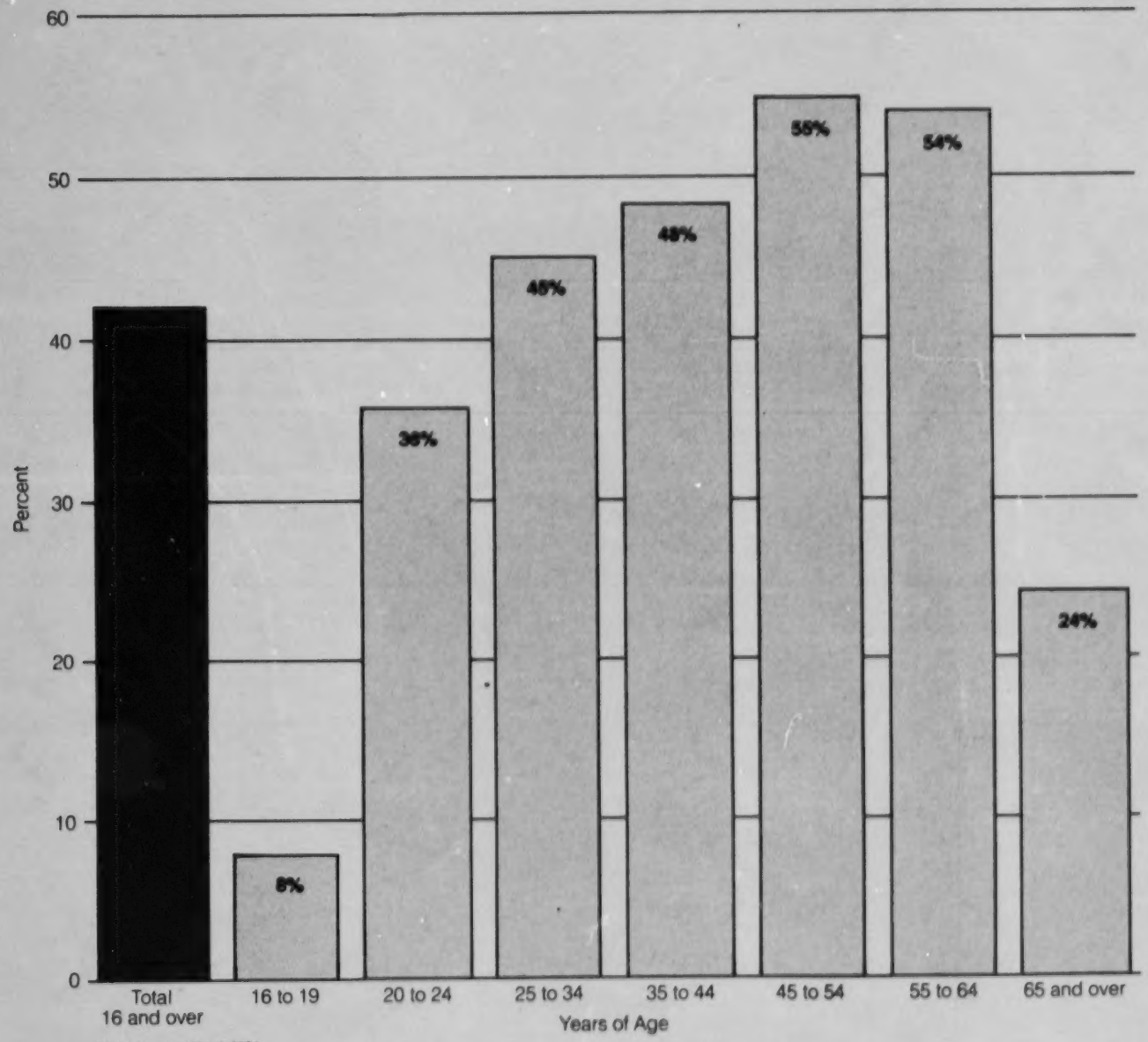
Over half of all women 16 years of age and over had some work experience in 1973—a proportion that varied by age, marital and family status, and presence and age of children.

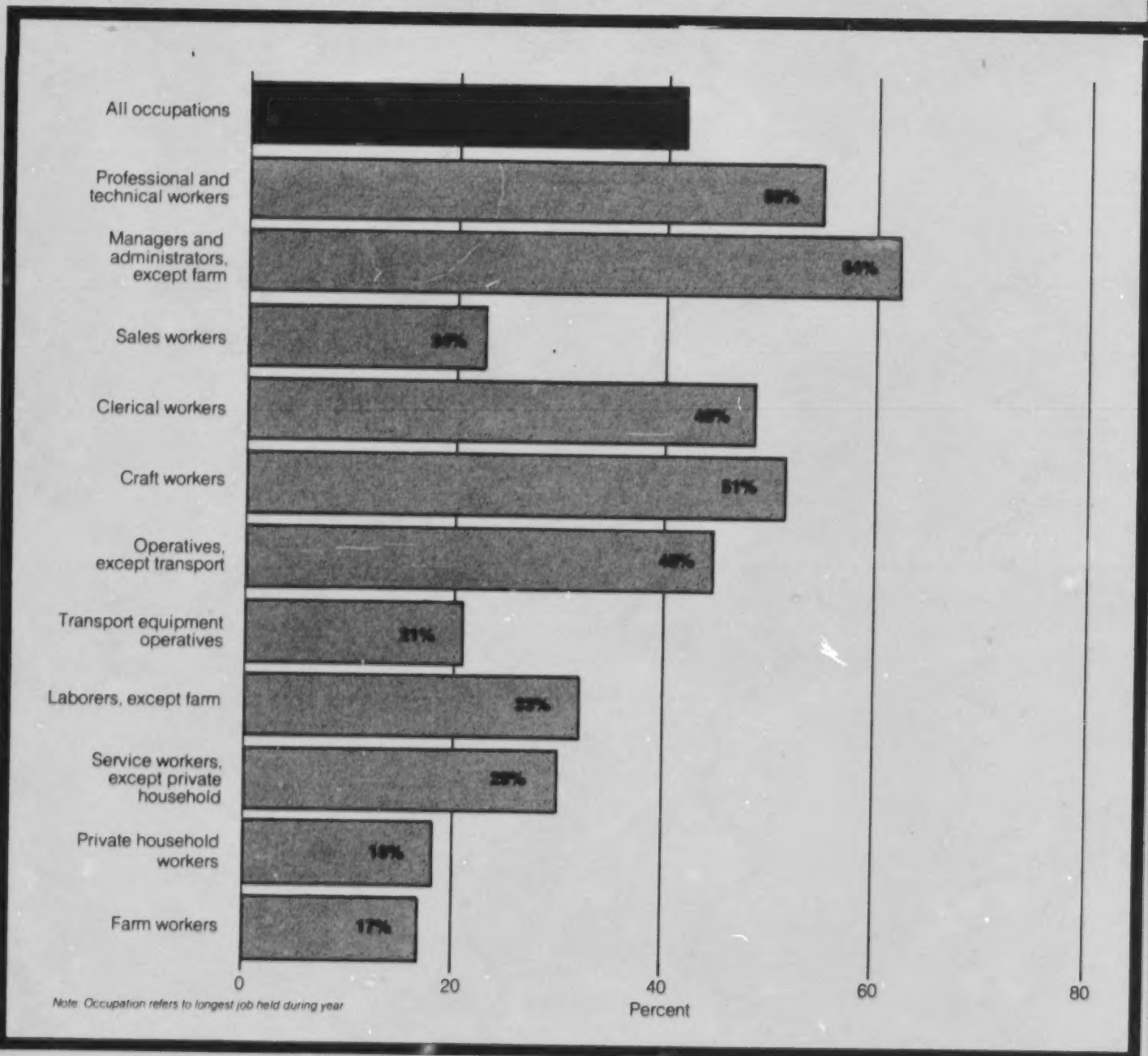
19

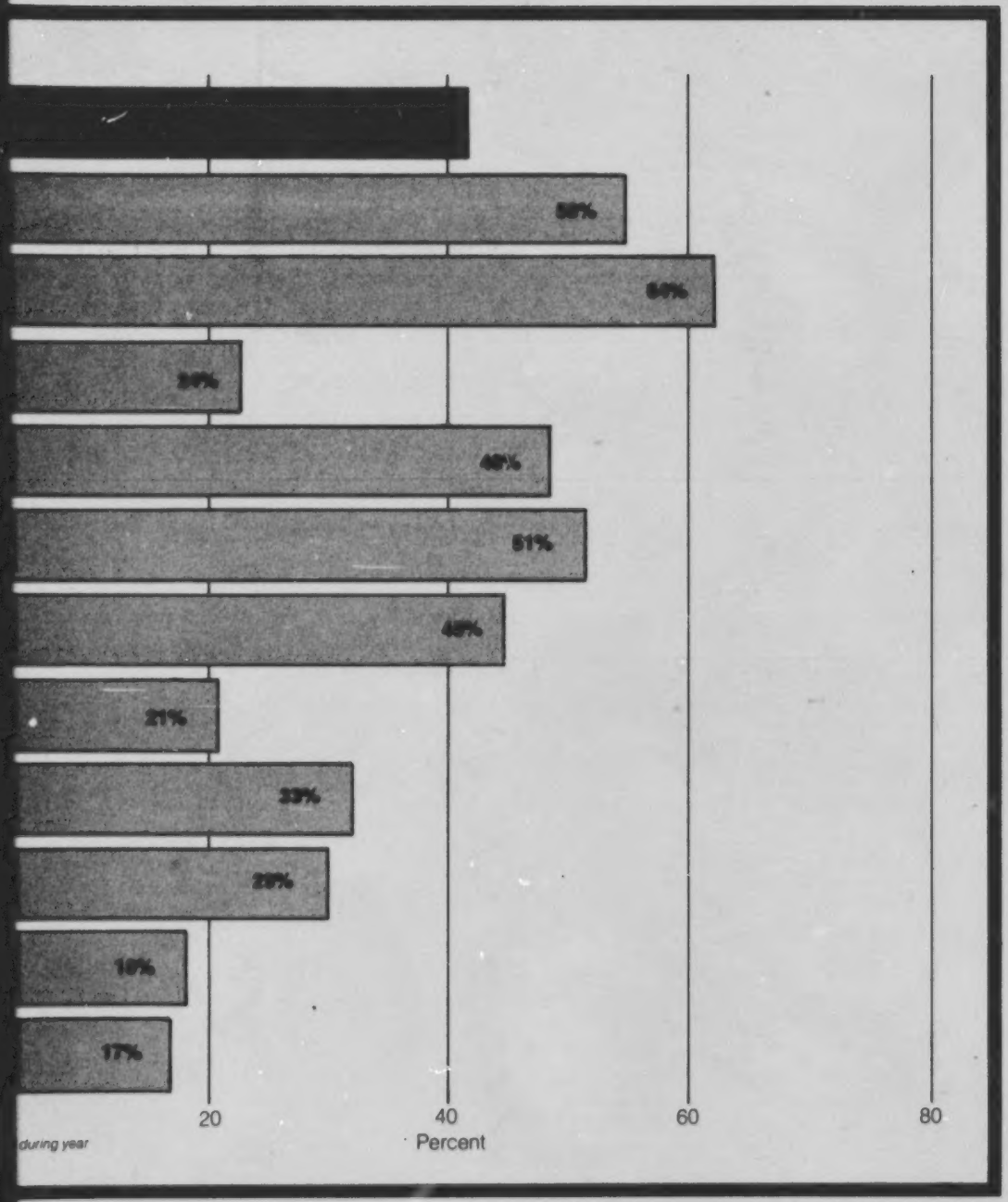
Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers, by age

About half of the women workers 25 to 64 years old work all year at full-time jobs.




60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Percent
8%
36%
45%
48%
55%
54%
24%
Total 16 and over
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 to 34
35 to 44
45 to 54
55 to 64
65 and over
Years of Age
Note: Age as of March 1974


All occupations
Professional and technical workers
Managers and administrators, except farm
Sales workers
Clerical workers
Craft workers
Operatives, except transport
Transport equipment operatives
Laborers, except farm
Service workers, except private household
Private household workers
Farm workers
0
20
40
60
80
Percent
Note: Occupation refers to longest job held during year



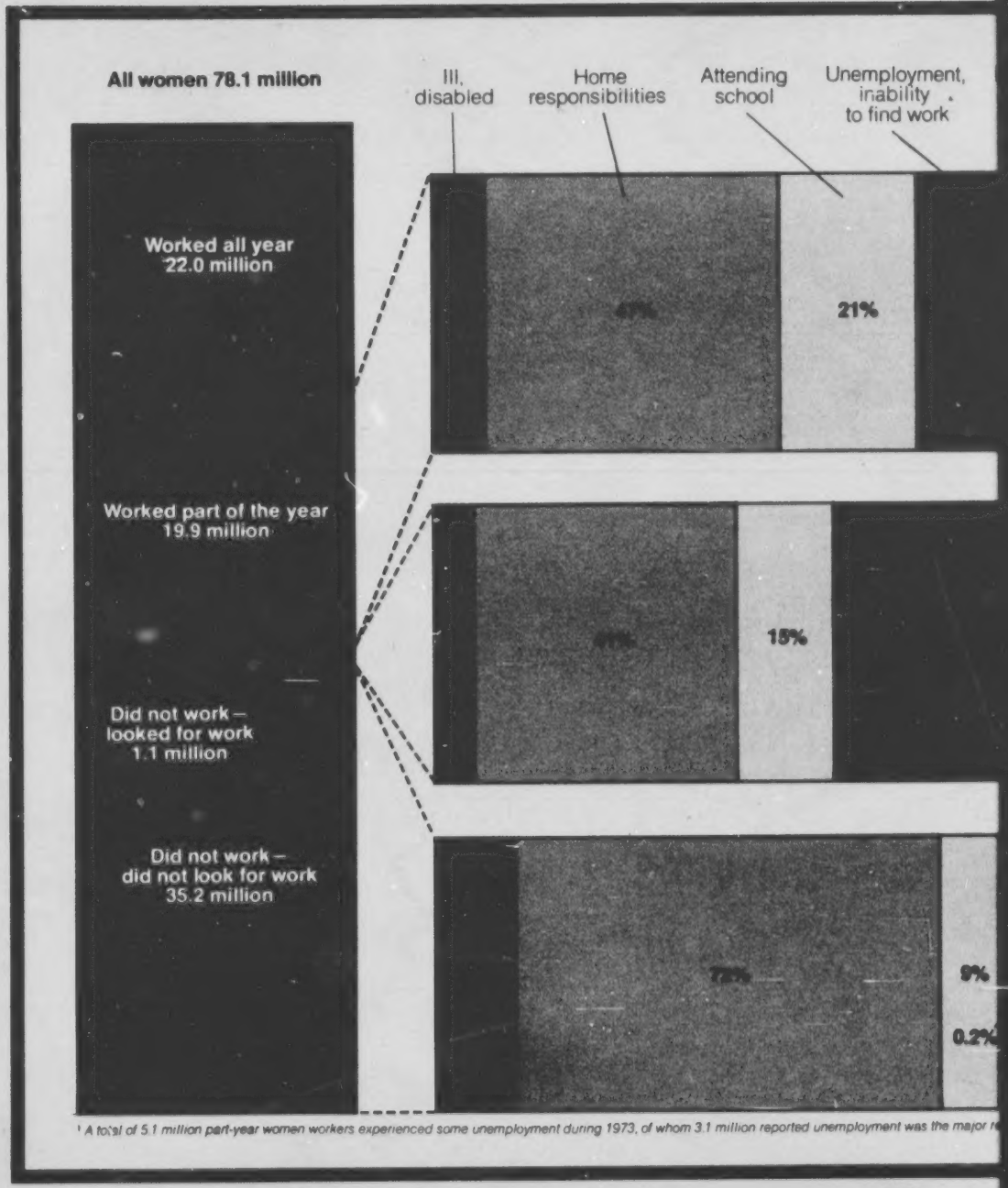
20

Women holding year-round full-time jobs in 1973 as a proportion of all women workers, by occupation

Women employed in professional-technical and managerial occupations are more likely to work year-round full-time than women who hold other kinds of jobs.

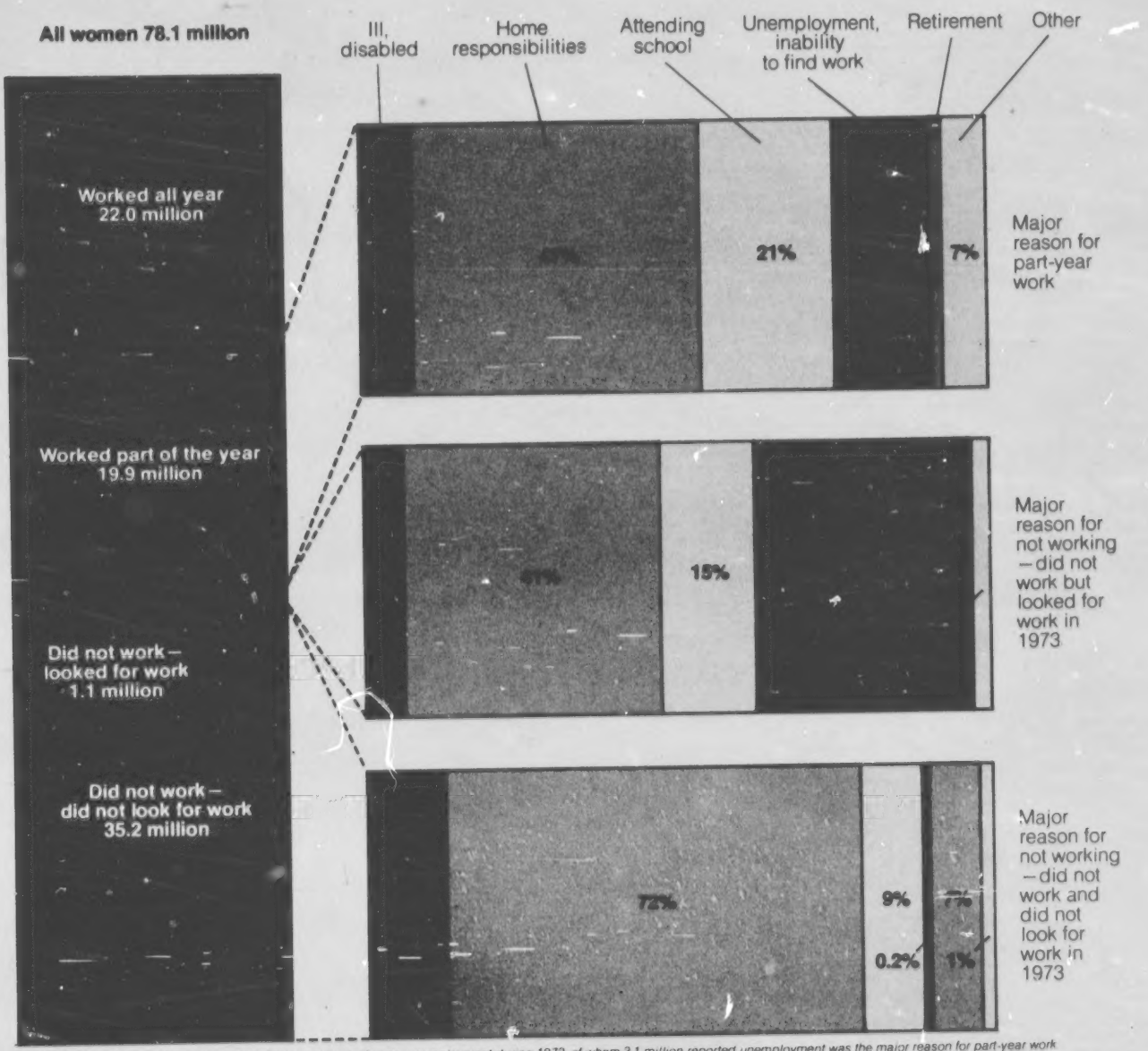
21

Women by reason for less than full-year work, 1973

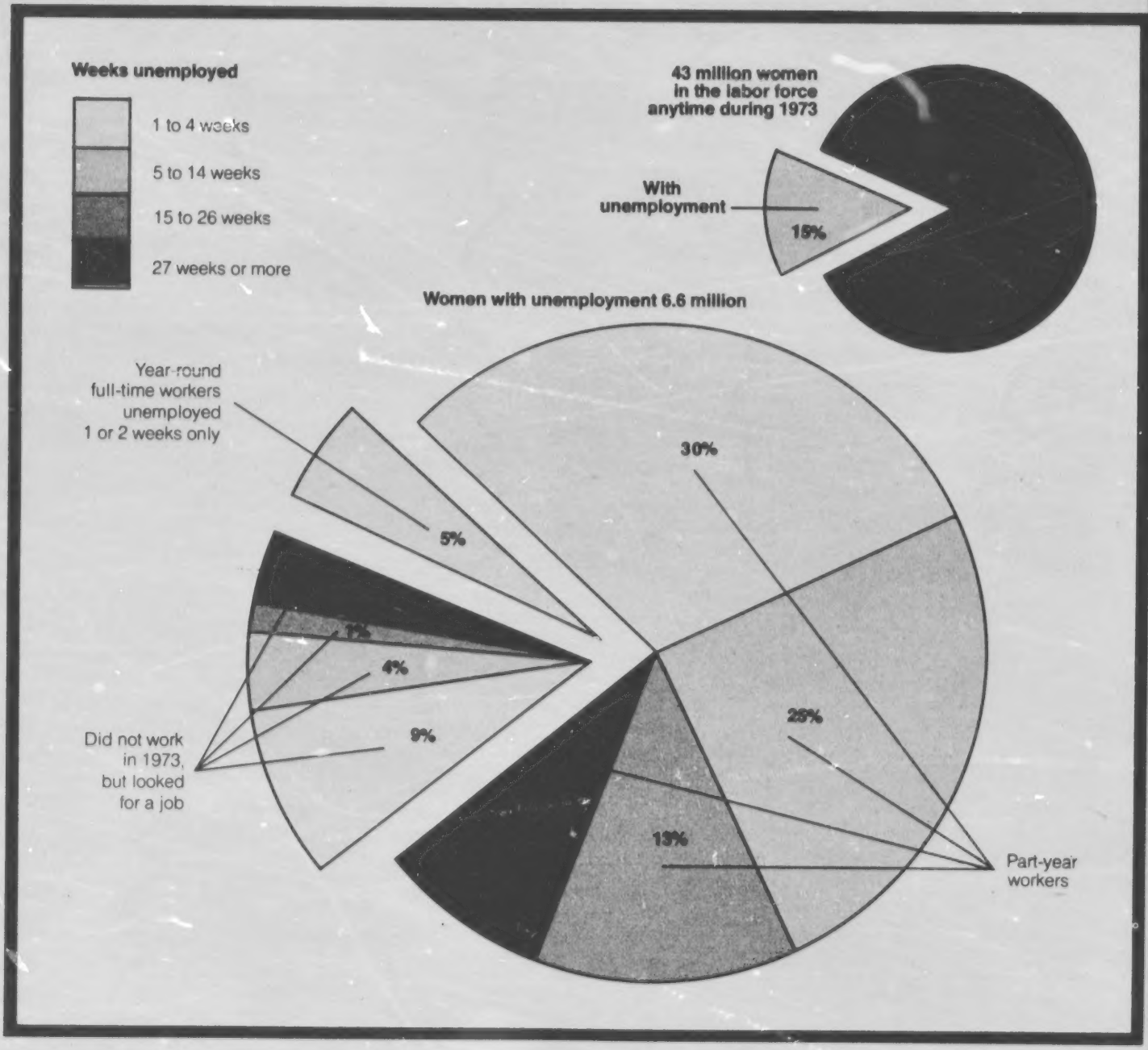


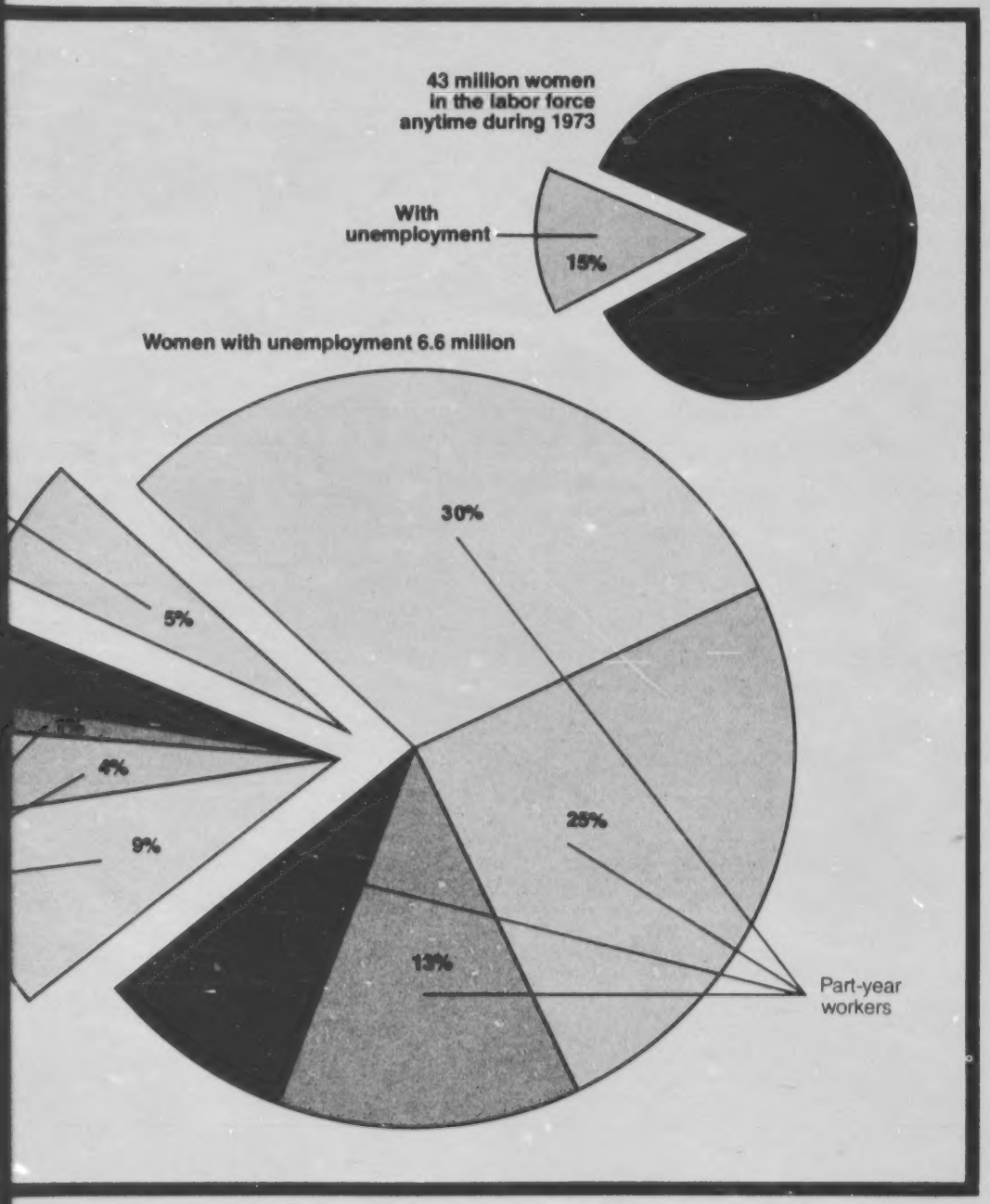
[1] A total of 5.1 million part-year women workers experienced some unemployment during 1973, of whom 3.1 million reported unemployment was the major r

The major reason women work only part of the year or not at all is home responsibilities.


All women 78.1 million
Worked all year 22.0 million
Worked part of the year 19.9 million
Did not work – looked for work 1.1 million
Did not work – did not look for work 35.2 million
Ill, disabled
Home responsibilities
Attending school
Unemployment, inability to find work
Retirement
Other
21%
7%
15%
72%
9%
0.2%
1%
Major reason for part-year work
Major reason for not working – did not work but looked for work in 1973
Major reason for not working – did not work and did not look for work in 1973

[1] A total of 5.1 million part-year women workers experienced some unemployment during 1973, of whom 3.1 million reported unemployment was the major reason for part-year work


Weeks unemployed
1 to 4 weeks
5 to 14 weeks
15 to 26 weeks
27 weeks or more
43 million women in the labor force anytime during 1973
With unemployment
15%
Women with unemployment 6.6 million
Year-round full-time workers unemployed 1 or 2 weeks only
5%
30%
4%
9%
Did not work in 1973, but looked for a job
25%
19%
Part-year workers



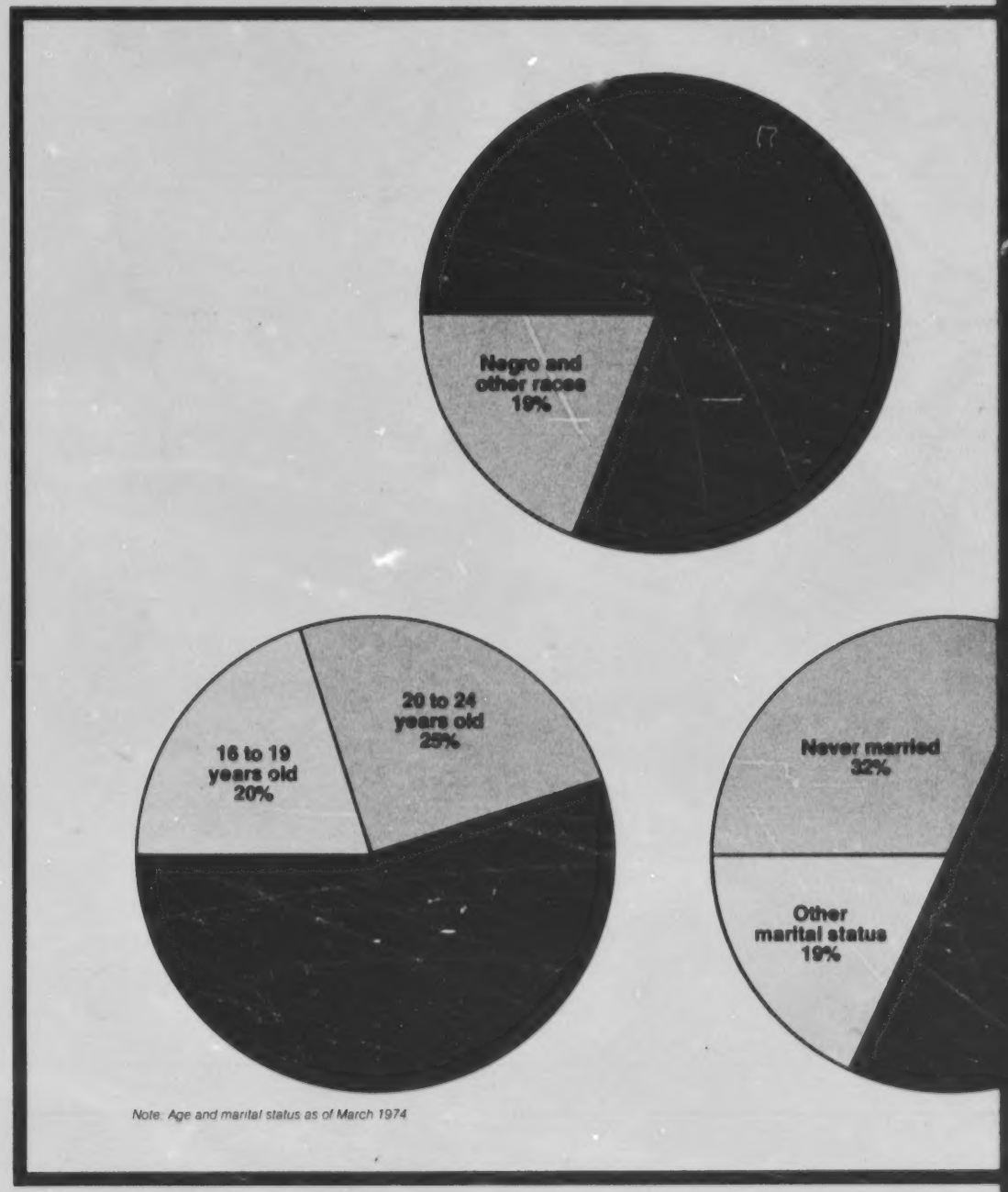
22

Women with unemployment in 1973 by work experience and weeks unemployed

Of the 43 million women with work experience in 1973, 6.6 million were unemployed at some time during the year—about 45 percent of their unemployment lasted less than 5 weeks.

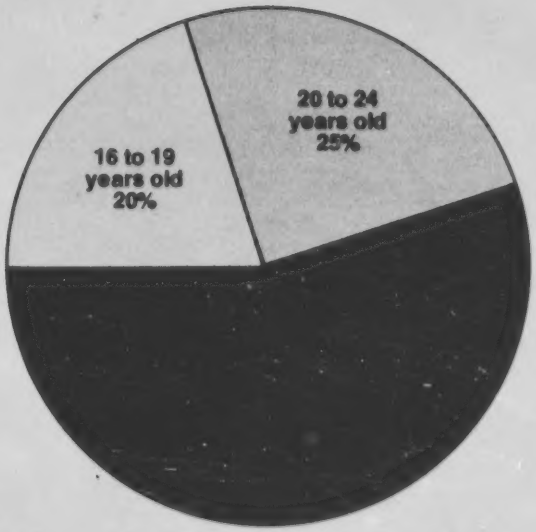
23

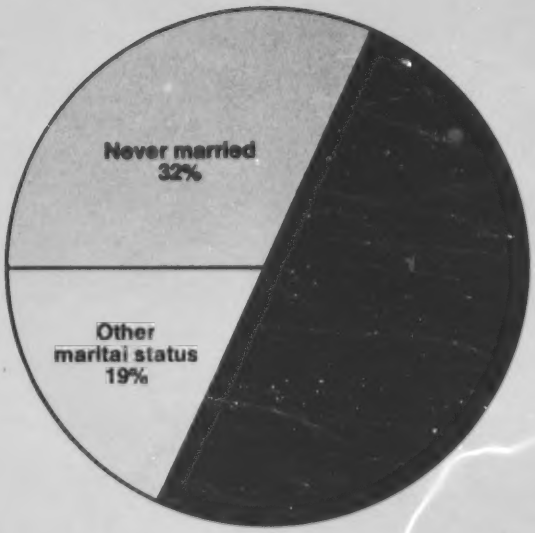
Women with unemployment in 1973 by race, age, and marital status



Note: Age and marital status as of March 1974

Of the 6.6 million women with some unemployment in 1973, 19 percent were of minority races, 45 percent were teenagers and young adults, and 50 percent were wives.





Note: Age and marital status as of March 1974

Marital and Family Status

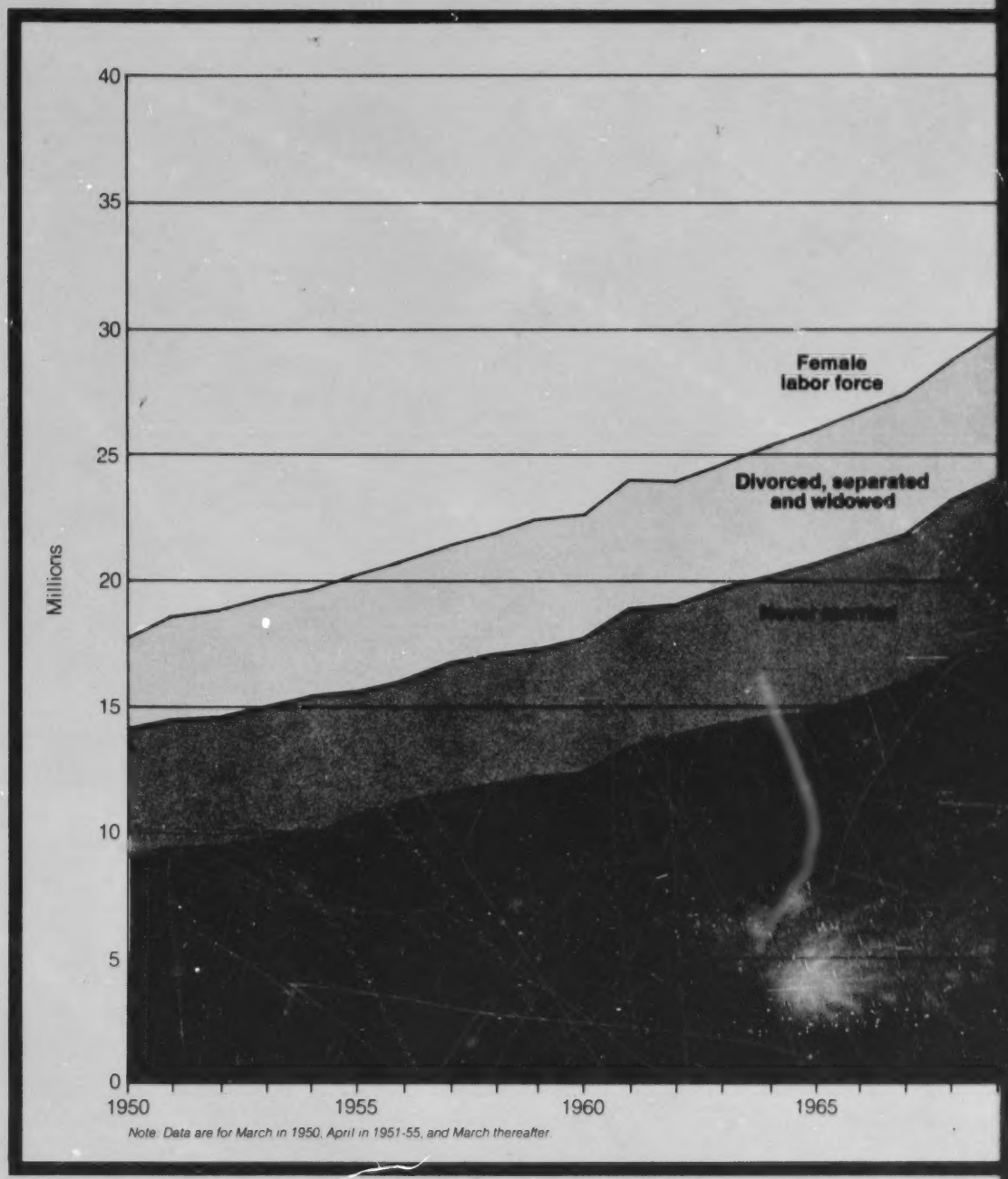
Part II

Nowadays single women no longer predominate in the female labor force as they did before World War II and in the early 1950's. Married women living with their husbands—nearly 21 million in 1974—account for almost three-fifths of all women workers. The proportion of female workers who are widowed, divorced, or separated is comparatively small, but on the rise.

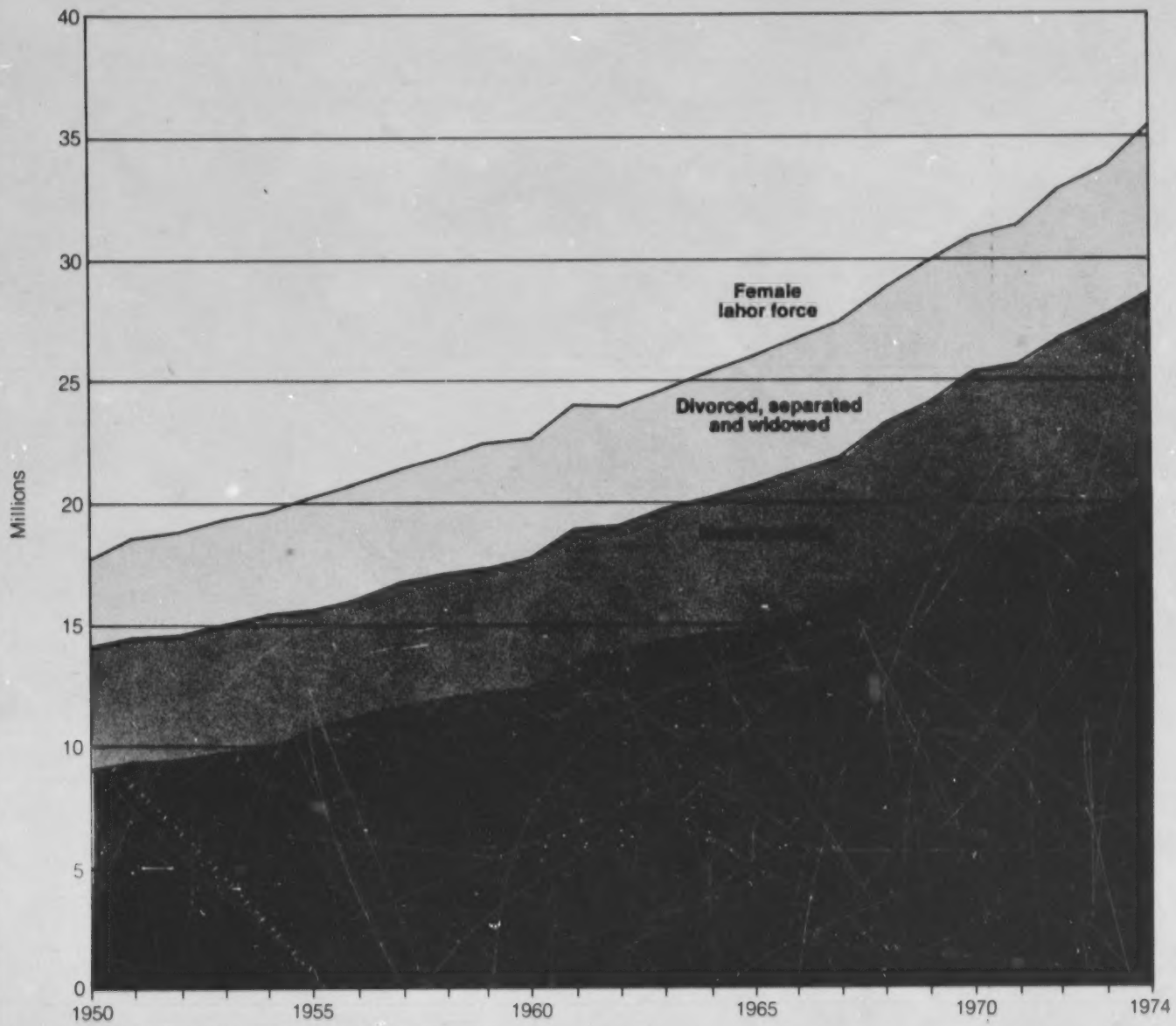
The trend toward smaller families has contributed to the consistent increases in women's overall labor force participation rate. Where young children are in the family, the likelihood of a mother's working outside the home is considerably reduced. Even so, labor force participation of these mothers has risen steadily for more than a decade. With divorce and separation on the increase in the 1970's, the number of families headed by working women is rising.

24

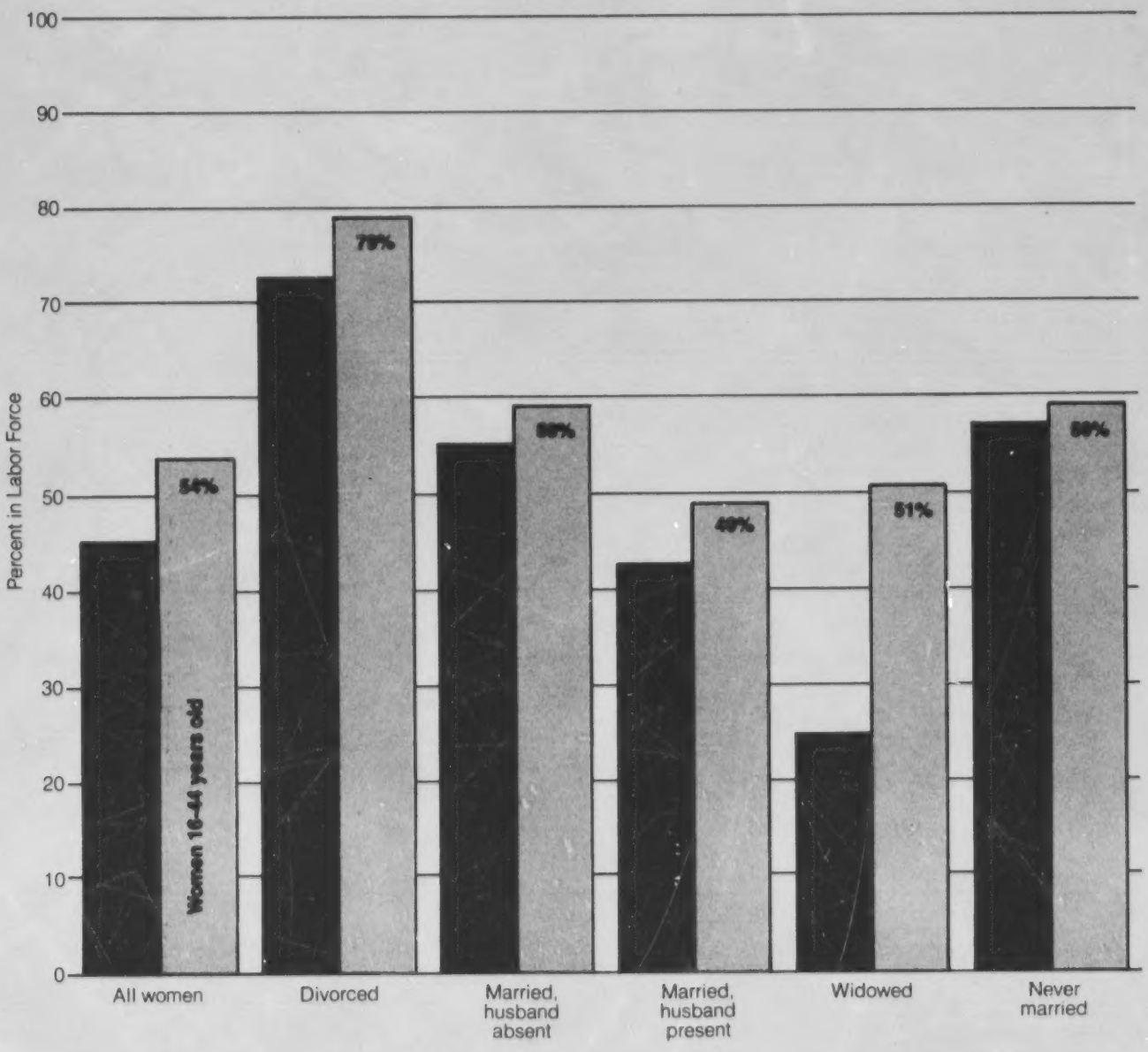
Women in the labor force by marital status, 1950-74

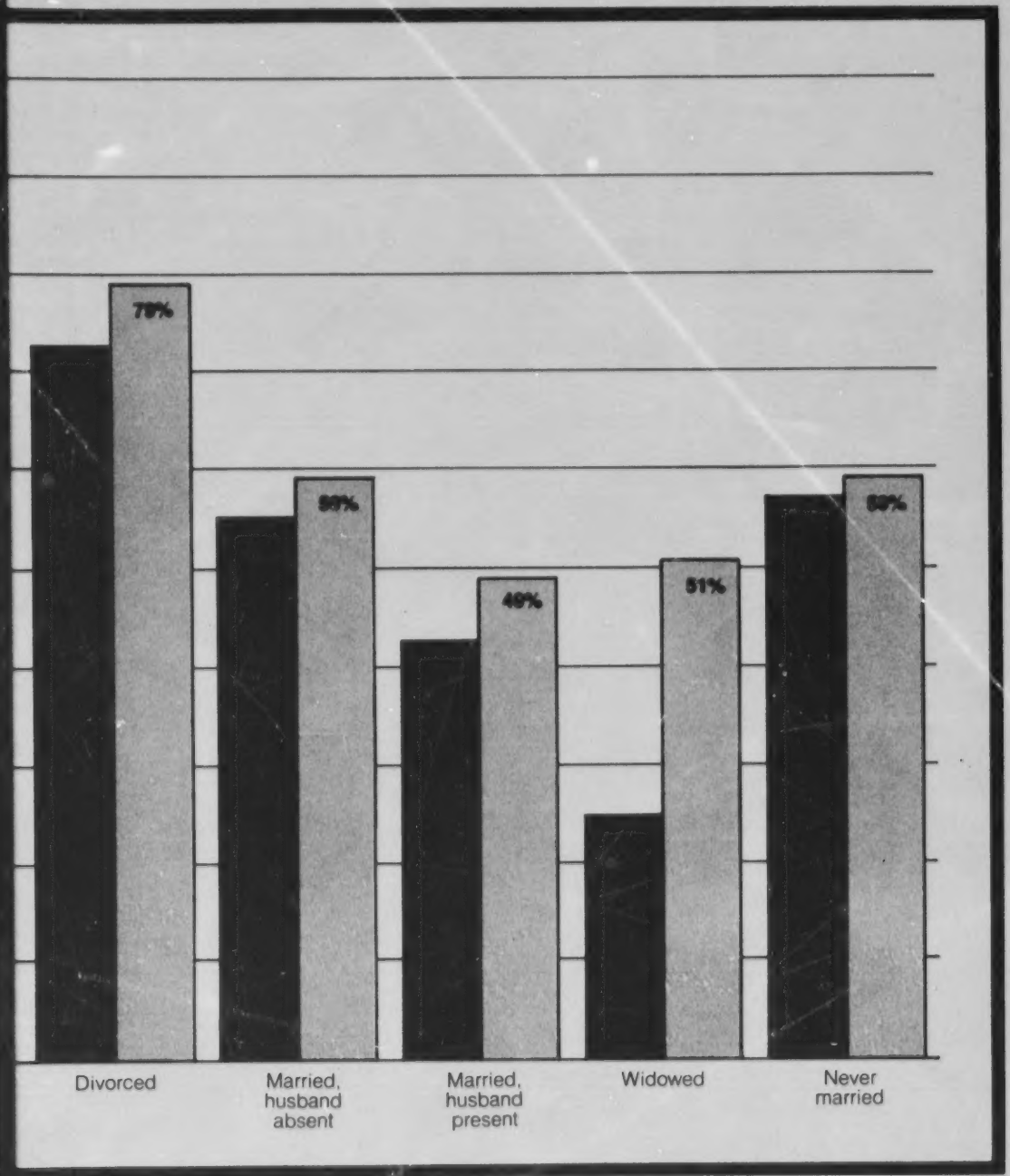


The number of married women in the labor force has more than doubled since 1950.



Note Data are for March in 1950, April in 1951-55, and March thereafter


100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Percent in Labor Force
Women 16-44 years old
54%
78%
59%
49%
51%
59%
All women
Divorced
Married, husband absent
Married, husband present
Widowed
Never married



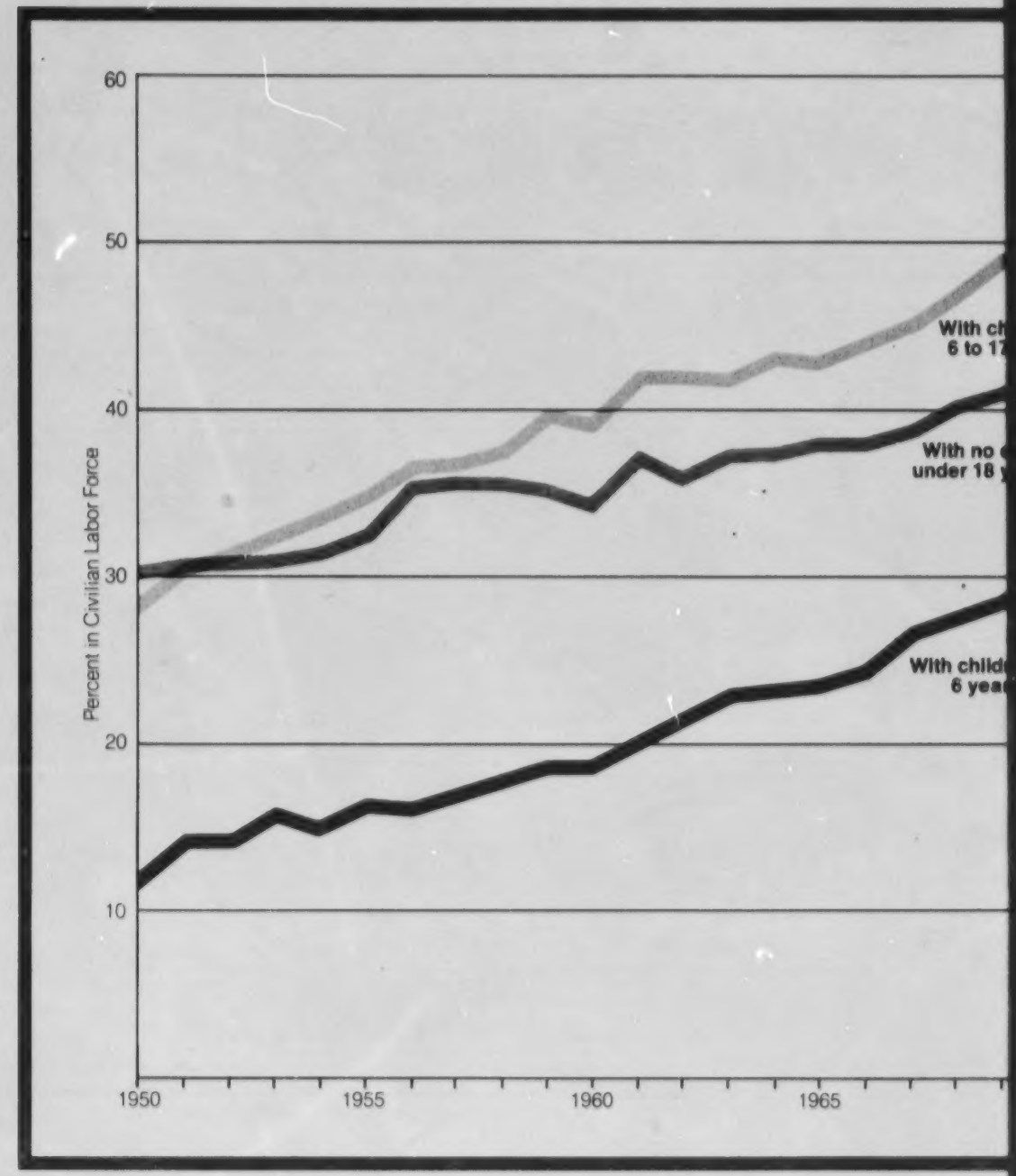
25

Labor force participation rates of women by marital status and age, March 1974

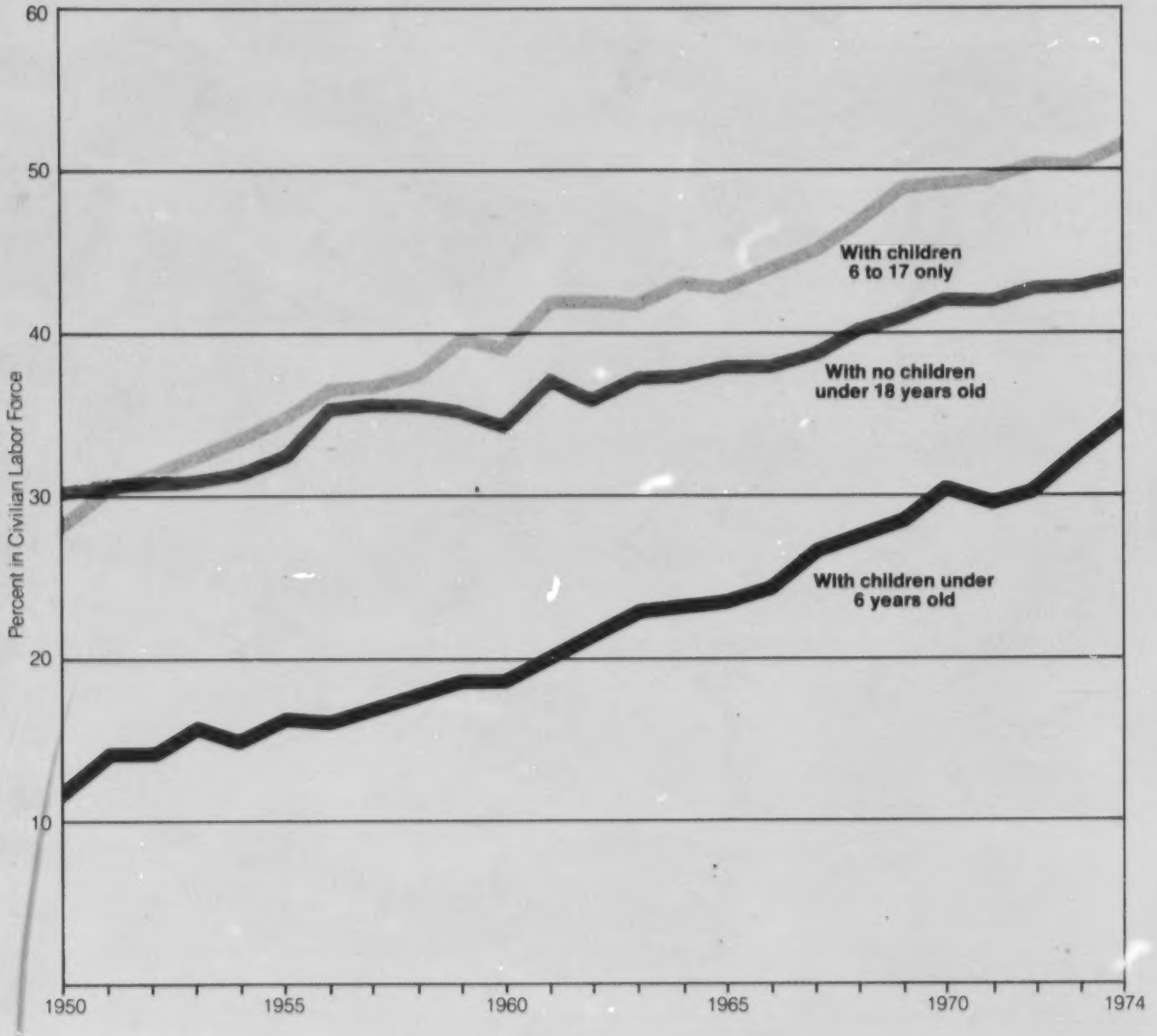
As a group, divorced women are more likely to be in the labor force than women of any other marital status. Widows are the least likely to be workers, but this is largely attributable to age.

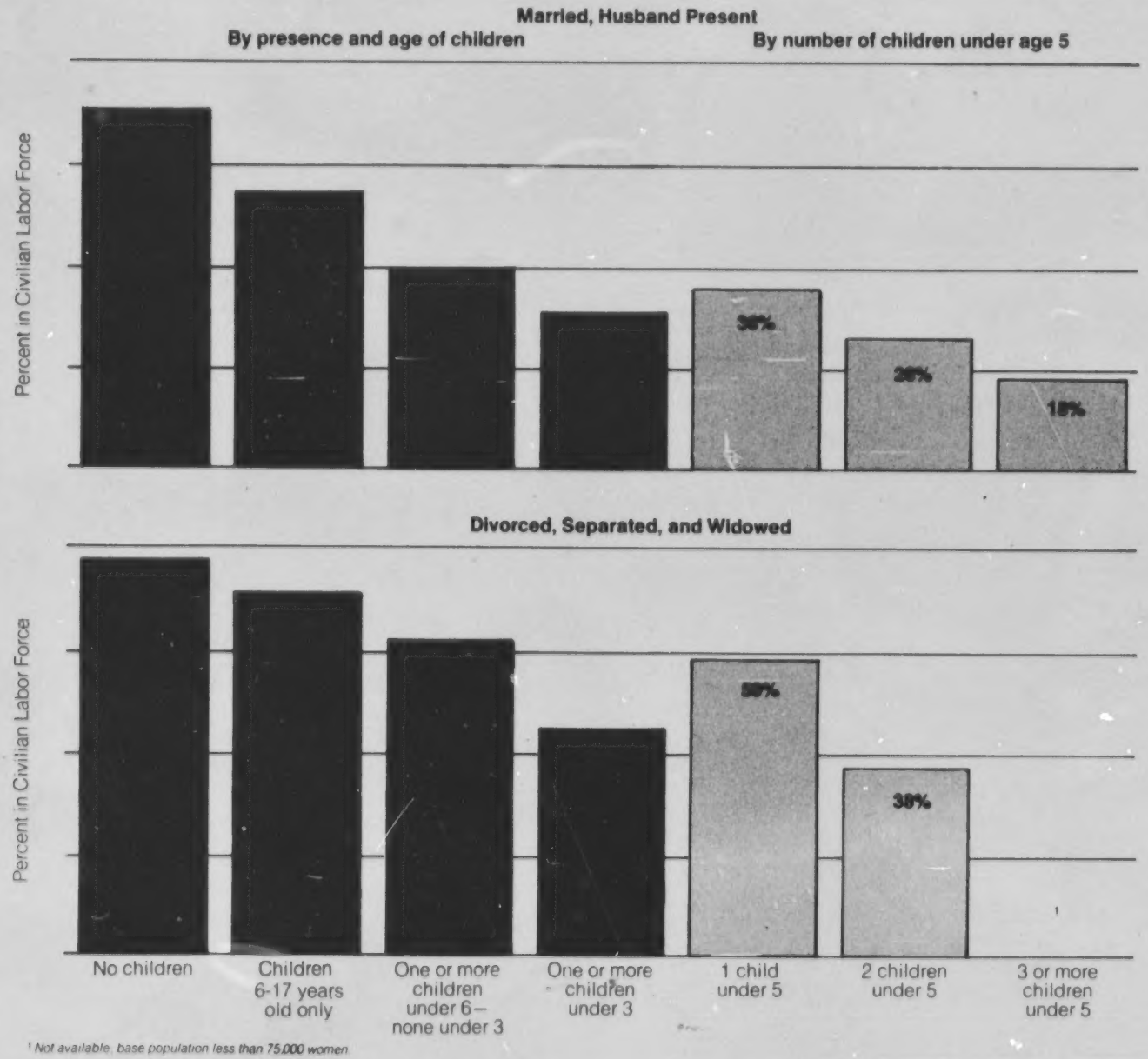
26

Labor force participation rates of married women by presence and age of children, 1950-74

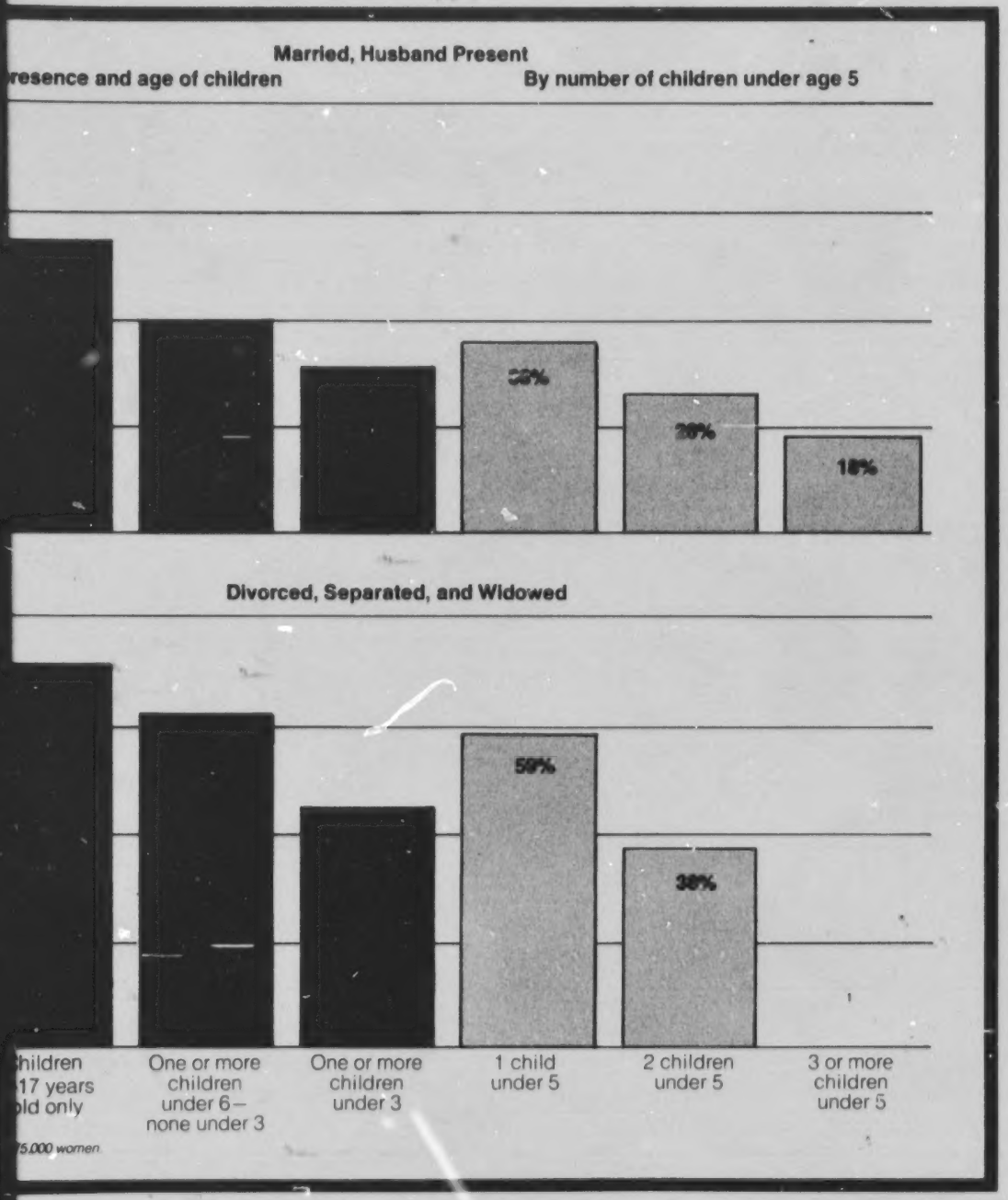


Married women with or without children under age 18 have entered the labor force in increasing proportions over the past quarter century; the pace of the increase for women with preschool age children has accelerated in the past few years.


60
50
40
30
20
10
Percent in Civilian Labor Force
With children
6 to 17 only
With no children
under 18 years old
With children under
6 years old
1950
1955
1960
1965
1970
1974



[1] Not available, base population less than 75,000 women



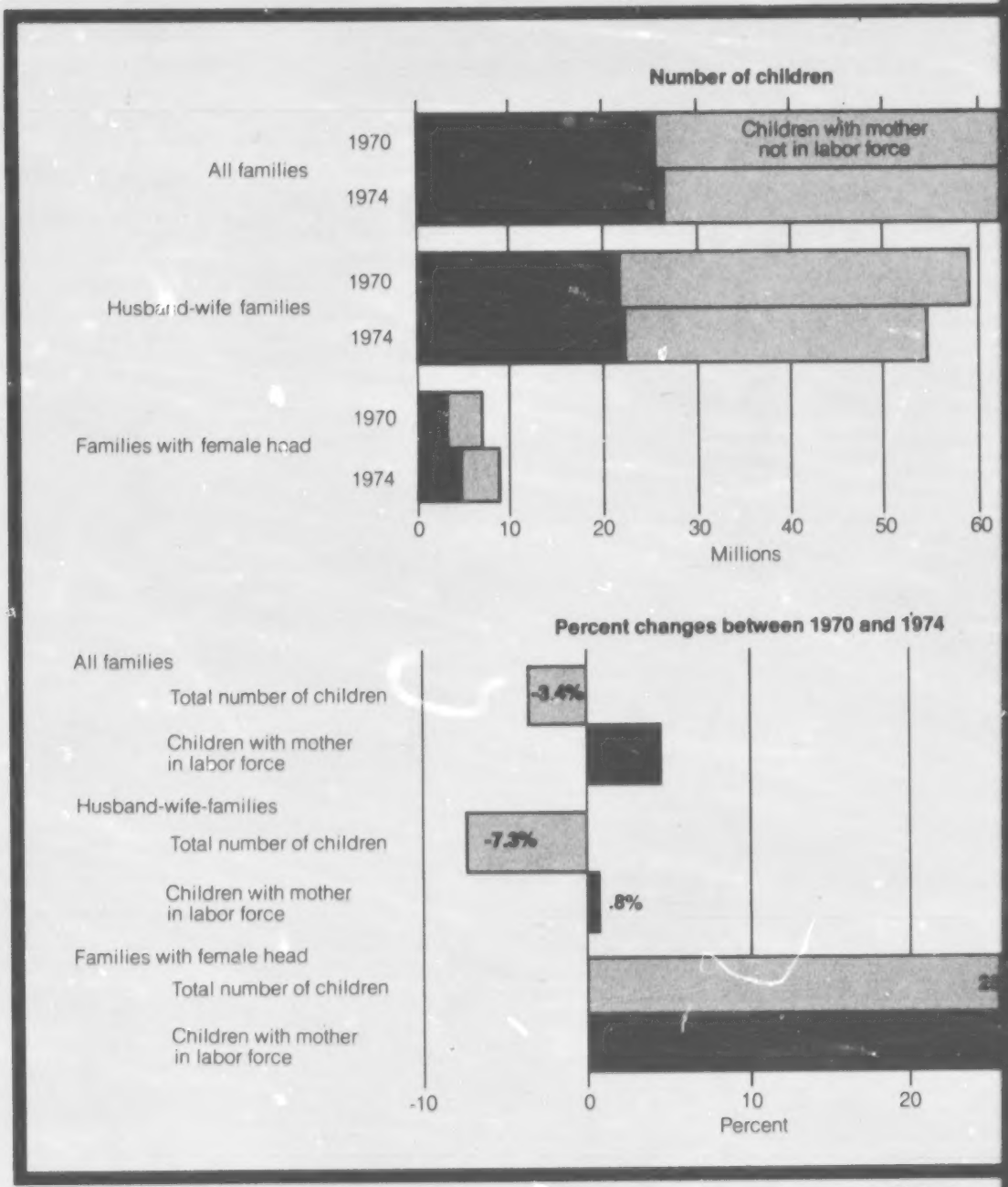
27

Labor force participation rates of married or formerly married women under age 45, March 1974

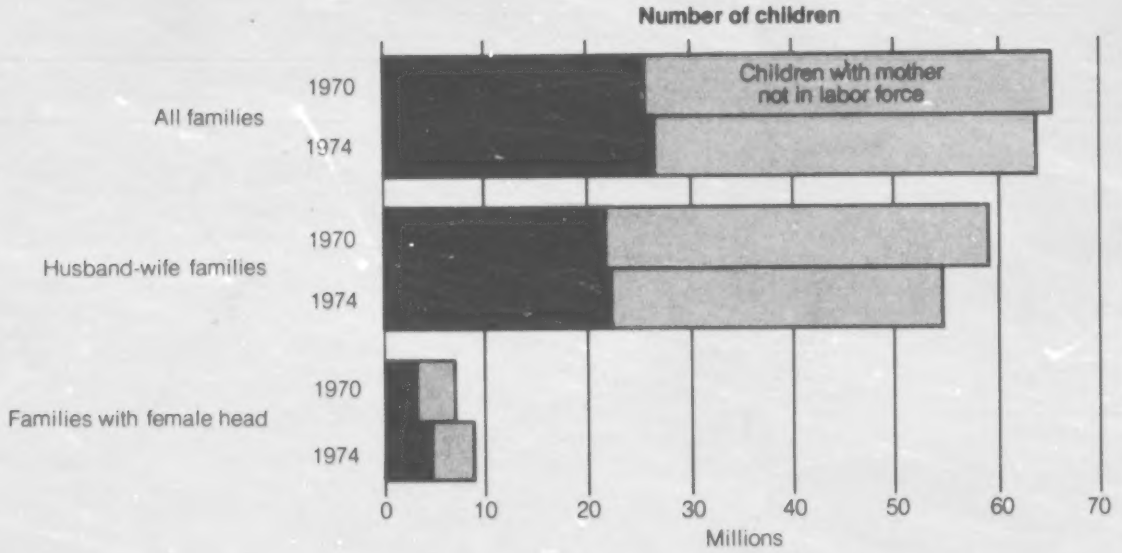
The presence of children, especially preschoolers, reduces the likelihood of labor force participation among married women in the typical childbearing ages. This is true for divorced and separated women as well.

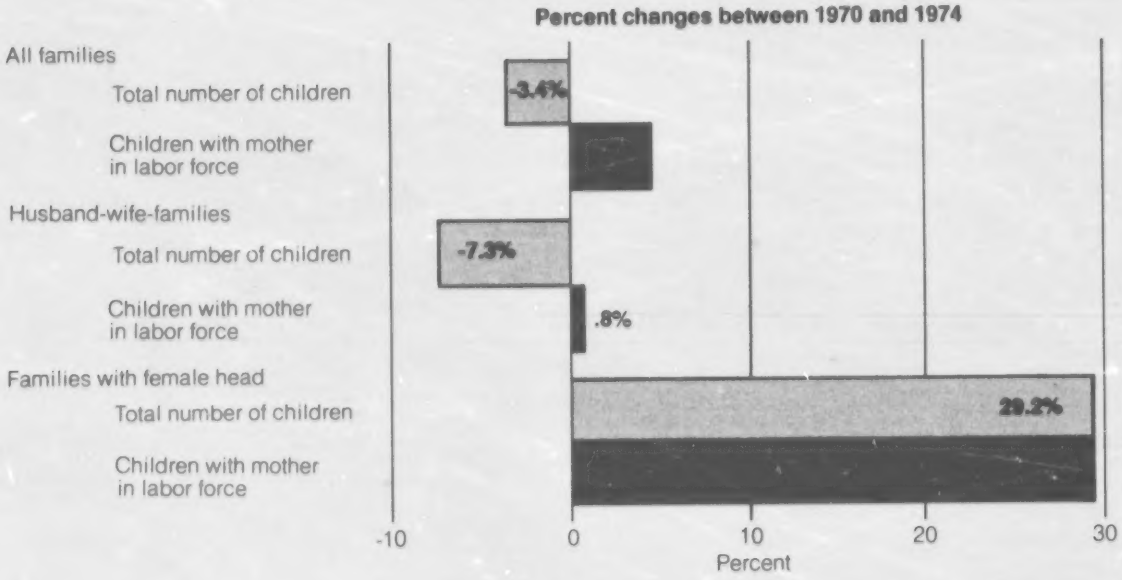
28

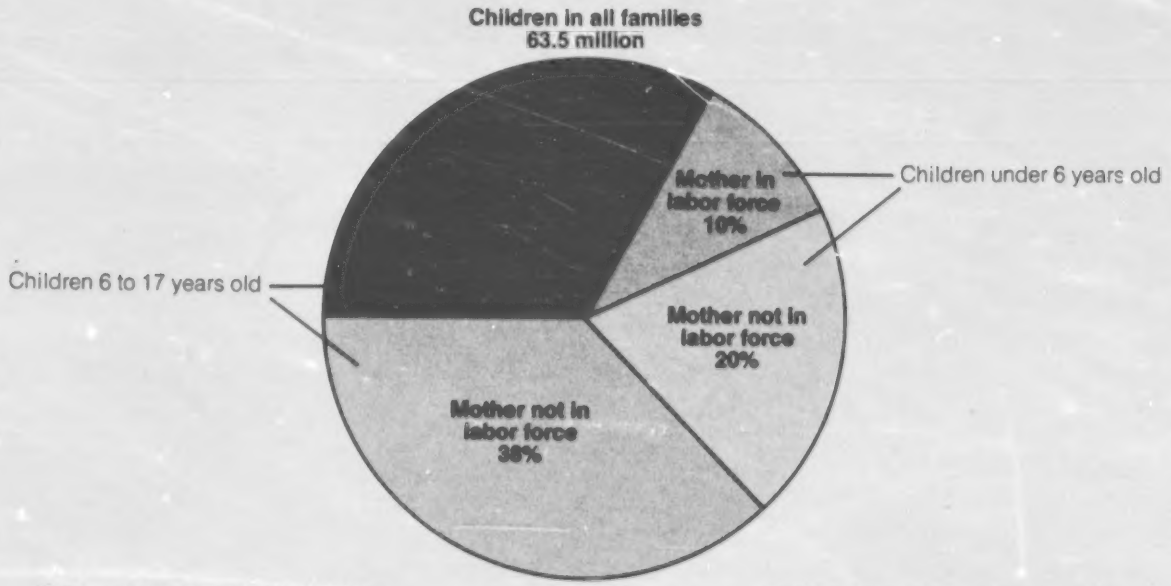
Children under age 18 by type of family and labor force status of mother, 1970 and 1974

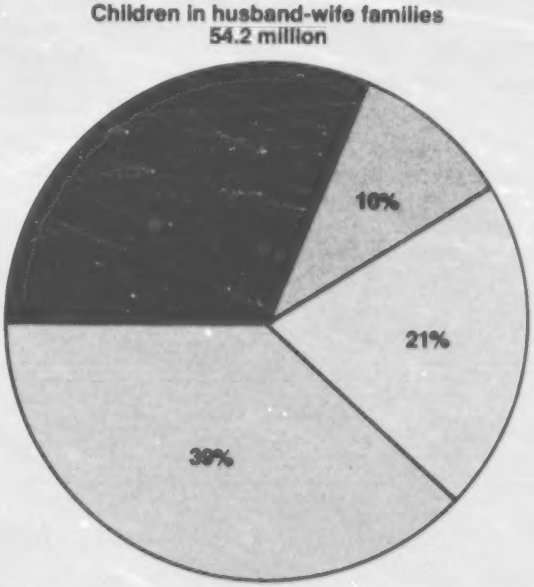


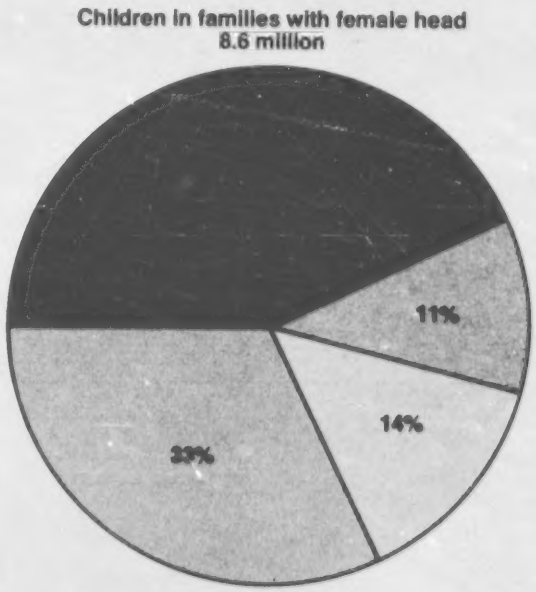
While the number of children under age 18 dropped between 1970 and 1974, the number whose mothers were in the labor force rose. As a result of the increase in divorce and separation among married couples with children, most of the increase in the number of children with working mothers took place among families headed by women.


Number of children
All families
1970
1974
Children with mother not in labor force
Husband-wife families
1970
1974
Families with female head
1970
1974
0
10
20
30
40
50
60
70
Millions


Percent changes between 1970 and 1974
All families
Total number of children
-3.4%
Children with mother in labor force
Husband-wife-families
Total number of children
-7.3%
Children with mother in labor force
.8%
Families with female head
Total number of children
29.2%
Children with mother in labor force
-10
0
10
20
30
Percent


Children in all families
63.5 million
Mother in labor force 10%
Children under 6 years old
Children 6 to 17 years old
Mother not in labor force 20%
Mother not in labor force 38%

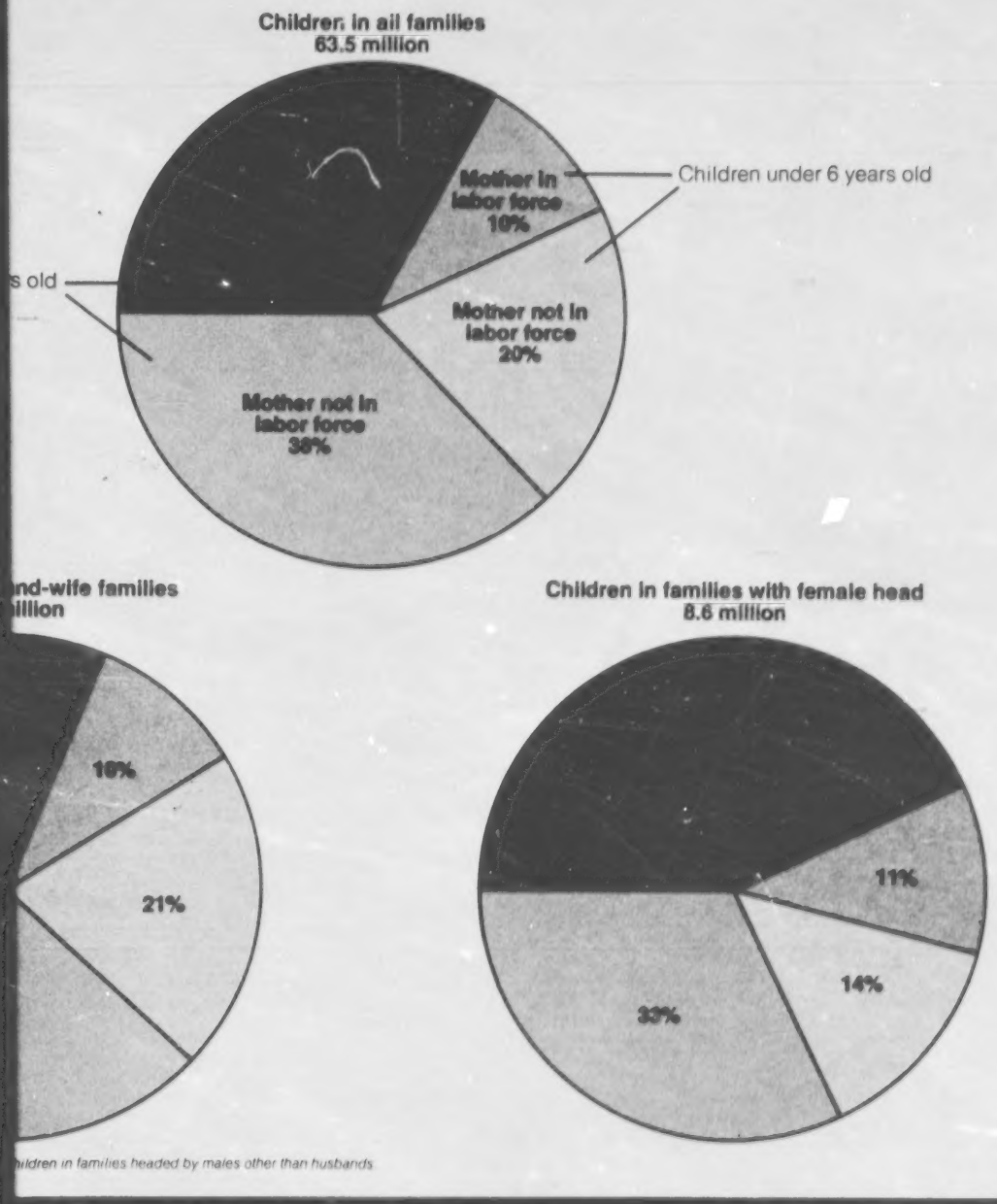




Note: Not shown separately are 740,000 children in families headed by males other than husbands.

29

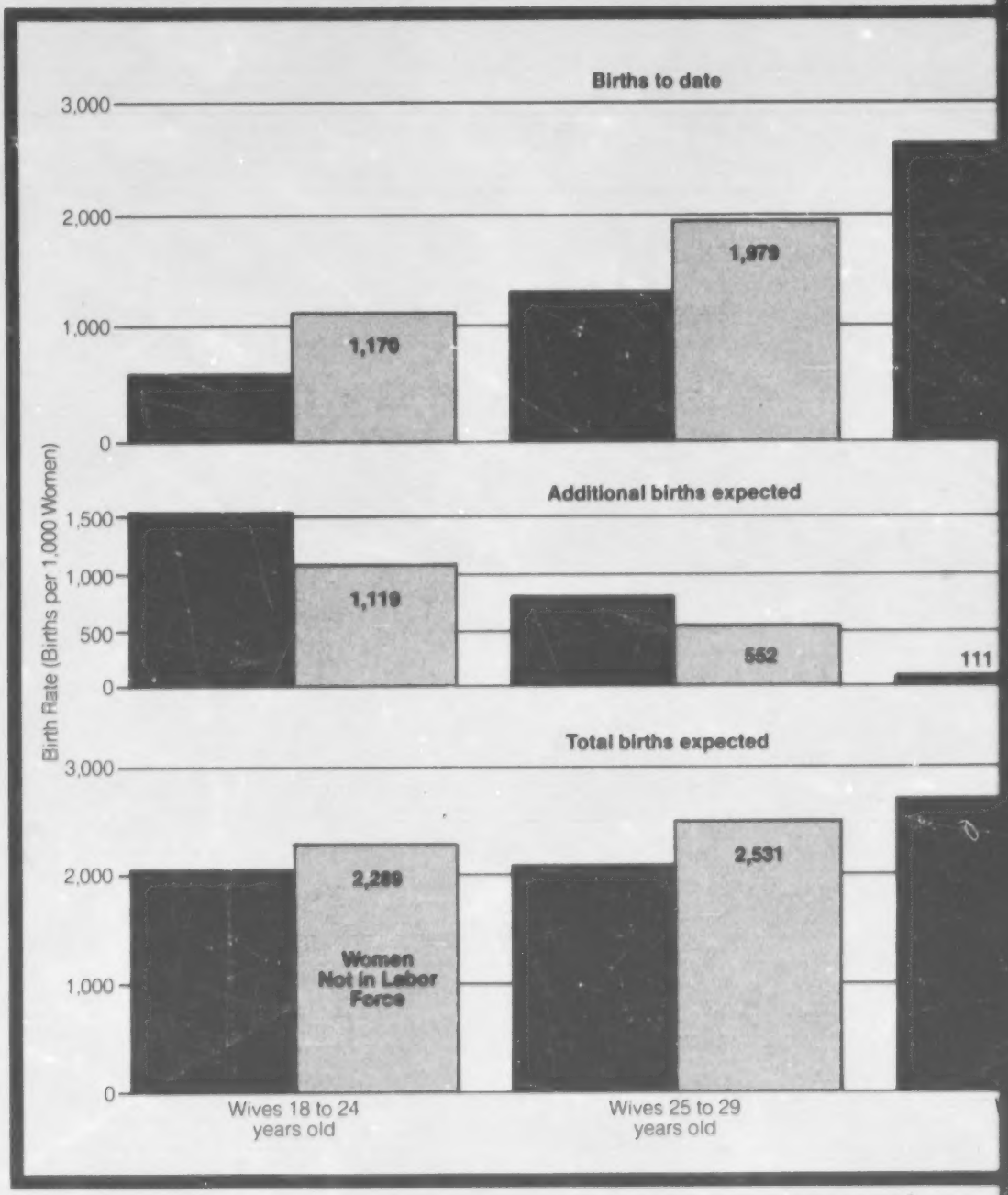
Children under age 18 by type of family, age, and labor force status of mother, March 1974



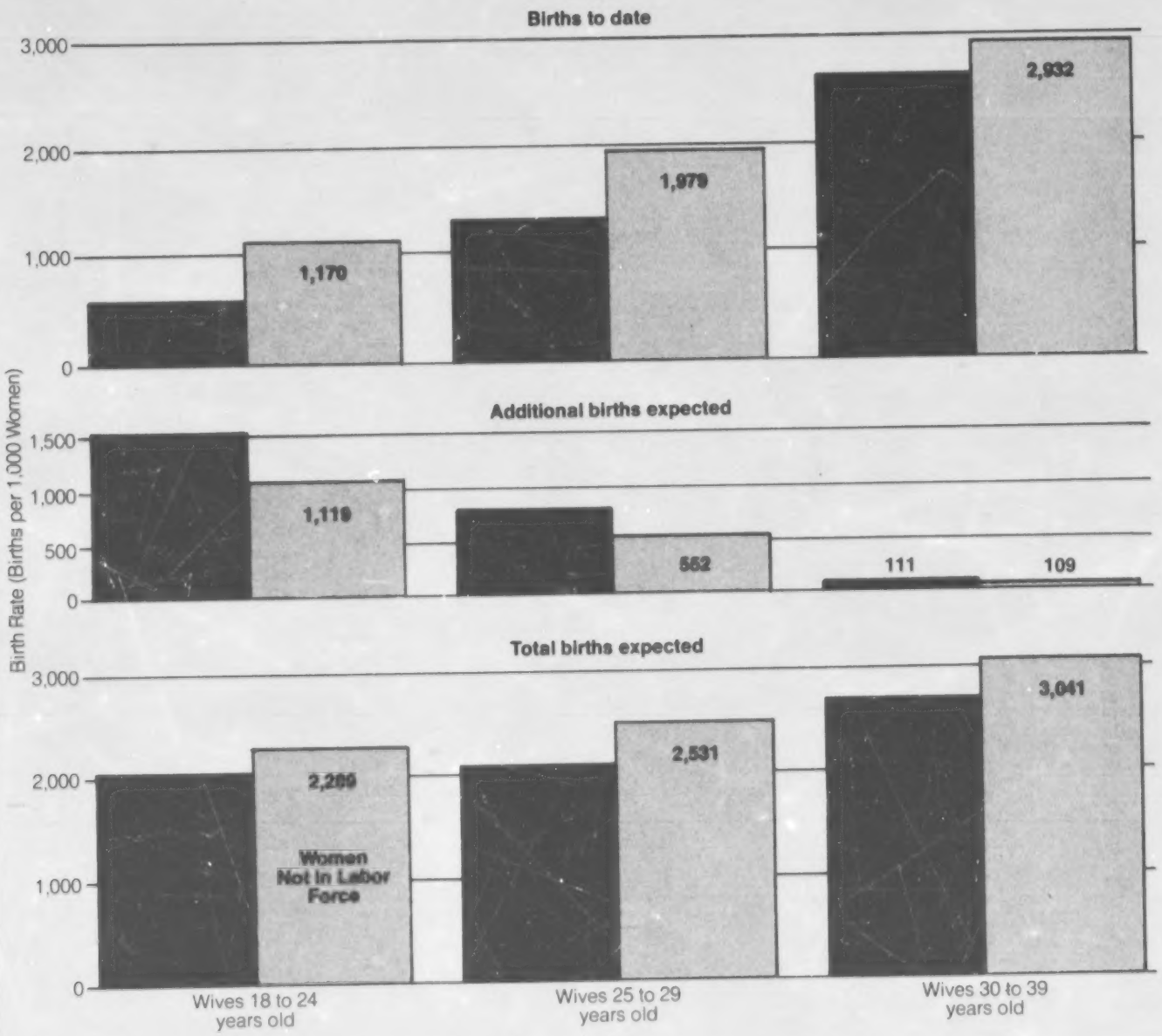
Most children of working mothers are old enough to be in school, but in 1974 about 6 million were below regular school age, requiring other arrangements for care in their working mothers' absence.

30

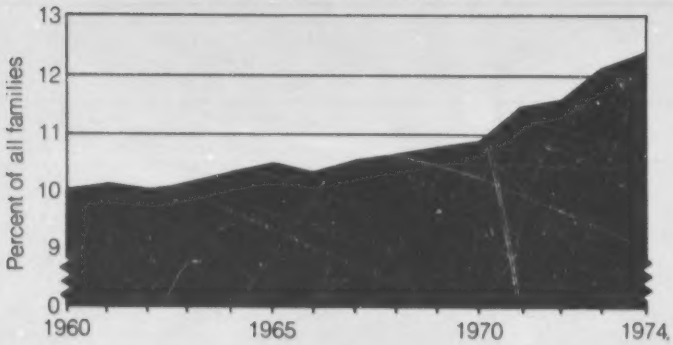
Birth rates of women in husband-wife families by age and labor force status of mother, June 1974



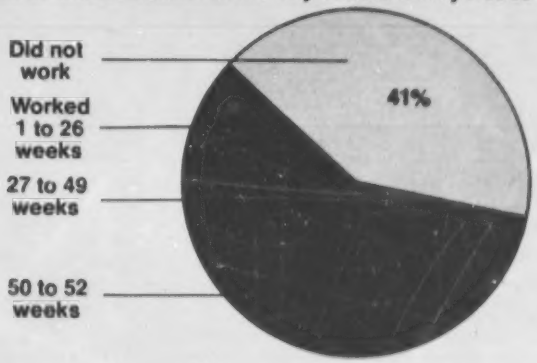
Wives who are in the labor force bear fewer children, on average, than wives who are not; although working wives plan to have more children in the future, they would still have fewer children than nonworking wives.


Births to date
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
1,170
1,979
2,932
Additional births expected
1,500
1,000
500
0
1,119
552
111
109
Total births expected
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
2,269
Women Not In Labor Force
2,531
3,041
Birth Rate (Births per 1,000 Women)
Wives 18 to 24 years old
Wives 25 to 29 years old
Wives 30 to 39 years old

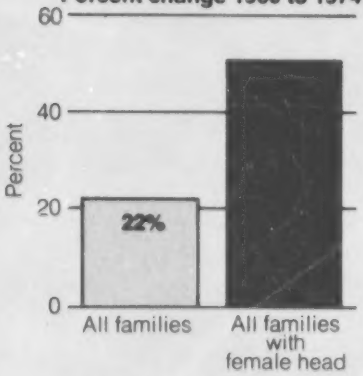
Families headed by women as a percent of all families, 1960-74



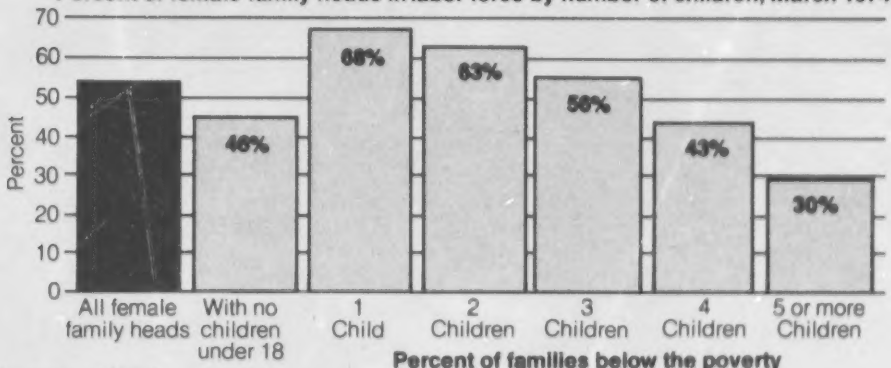
Number of weeks worked in 1973 by female family heads



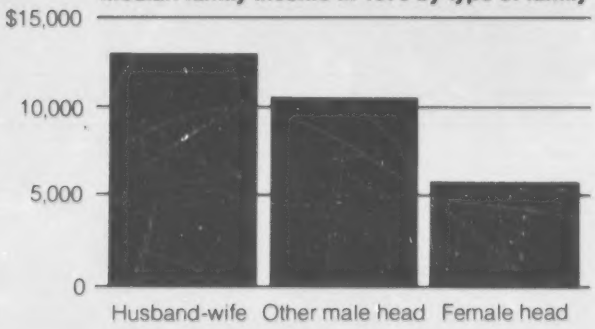
Percent change 1960 to 1974



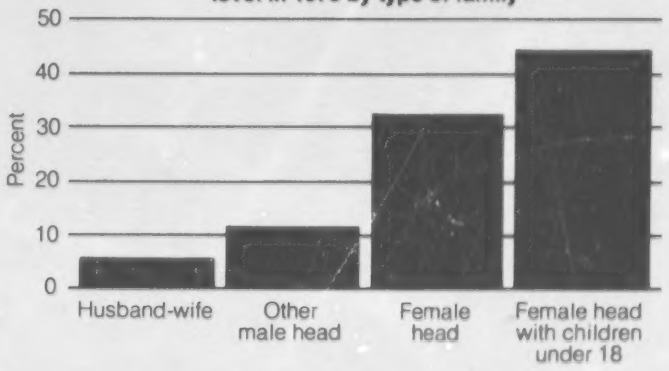
Percent of female family heads in labor force by number of children, March 1974



Median family income in 1973 by type of family

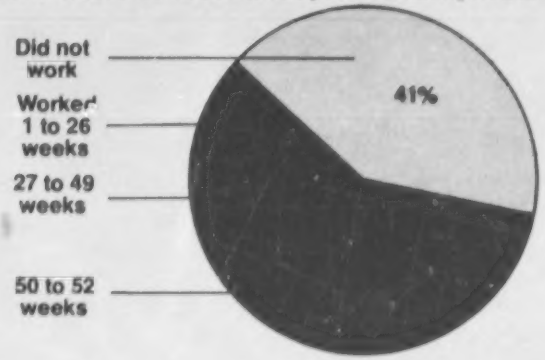


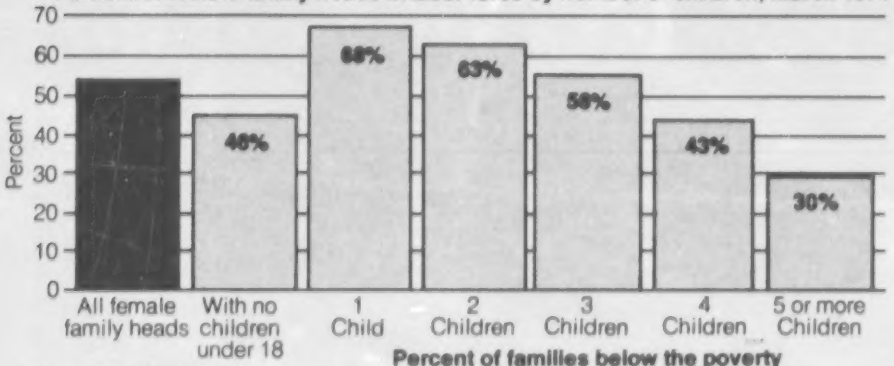
Percent of families below the poverty level in 1973 by type of family

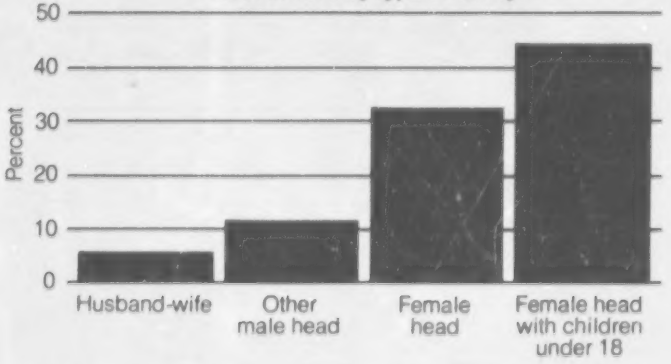


31

Summary indicators for families headed by women, selected periods, 1960-74







Families headed by women account for a significant and growing share of all American families. On average, half of the women who head families are in the labor force, but proportionately more female than male family heads are below the poverty level.

Income and Earnings

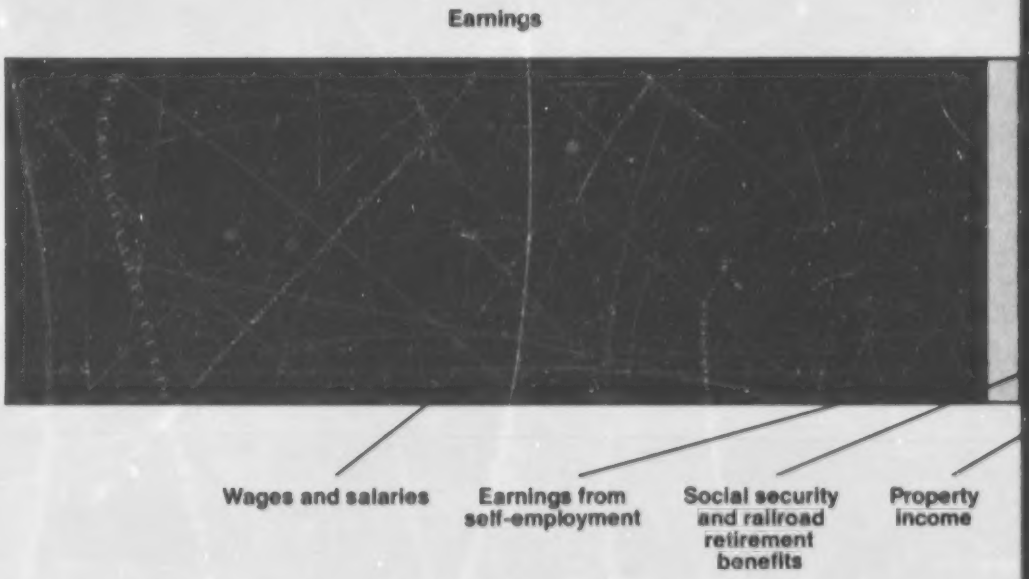
Part III

The great majority of working women have not yet attained parity with working men in earned income. Median usual weekly earnings of women on full-time jobs in 1974 were about 60 percent of those of men. For year-round full-time workers, women's median annual earnings were only 57 percent of men's, a ratio that ranged from 38 percent for sales workers to 64 percent for professional-technical workers. Through the years, employed women have consistently been clustered in lower paying occupations than men.

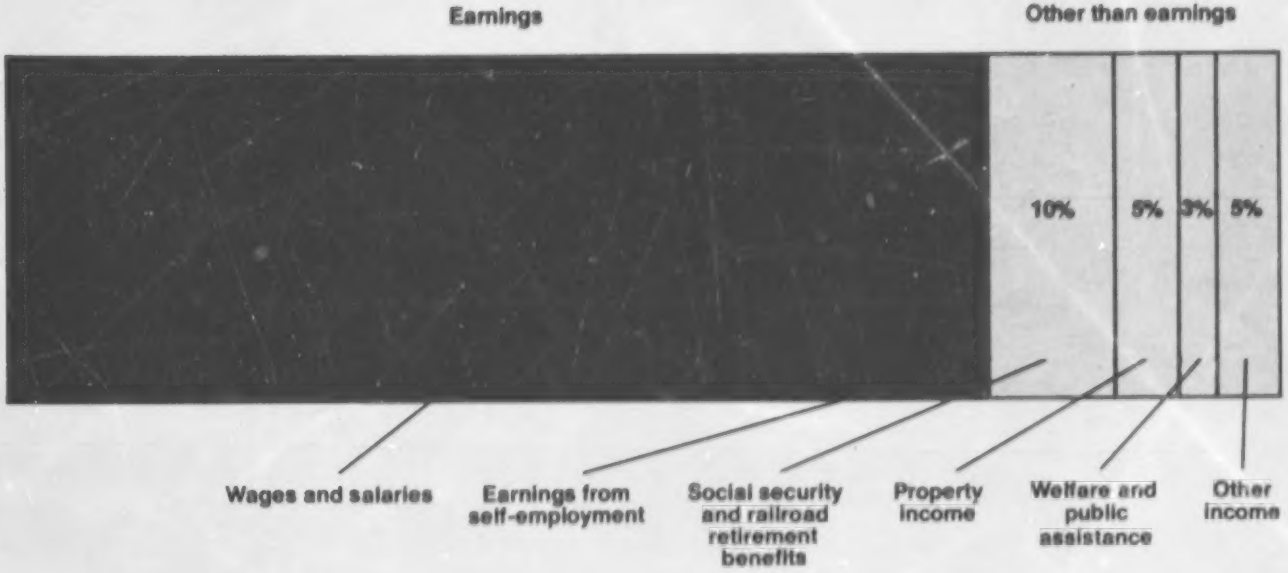
Despite their comparatively low earnings, women make a substantial contribution to their family's economic well-being, and the family with more than one earner has become a prominent feature of American life. In nearly half of all husband-wife families in 1973, both the husband and wife were earners. Wives' earnings accounted for, on average, 26 percent of the total family income in that year, and as much as 38 percent for wives who worked year round, full time.

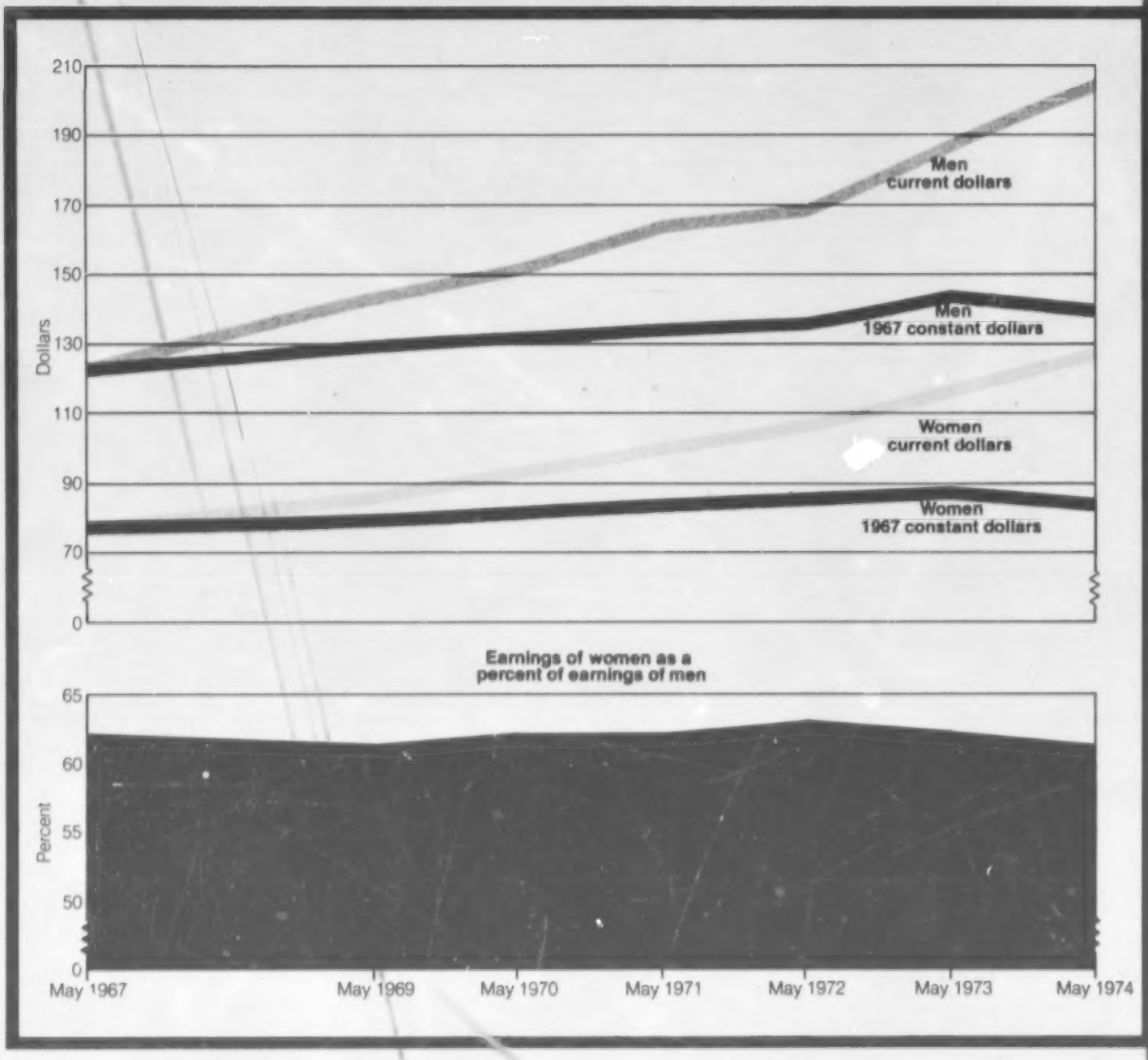
32

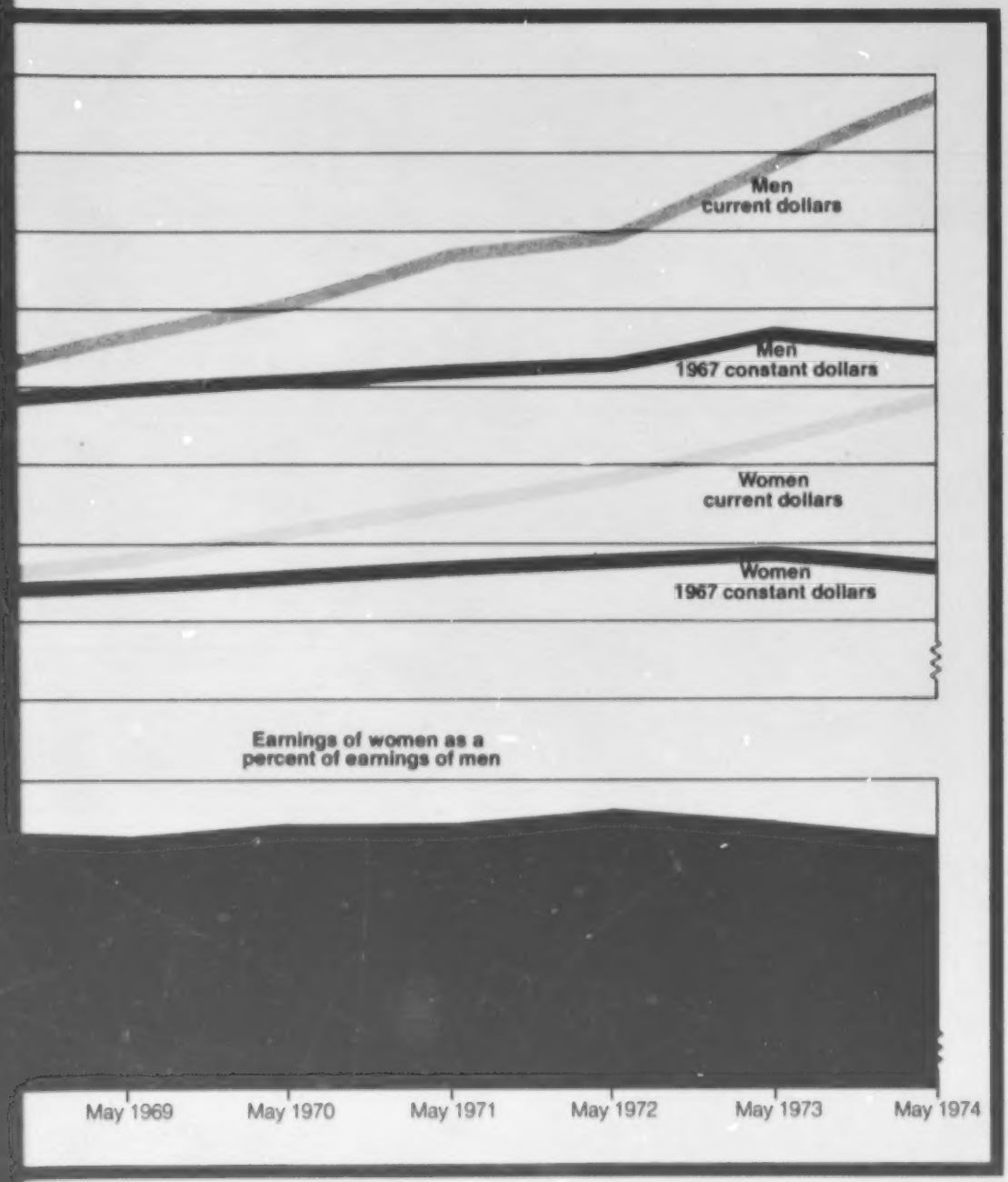
Income of women by source, 1973



Of the aggregate income of women in 1973, more than 75 percent was from earnings, about 10 percent was from social security and similar benefits, and 3 percent was from welfare and public assistance payments.


Earnings
Other than earnings
10%
5%
3%
5%
Wages and salaries
Earnings from self-employment
Social security and railroad retirement benefits
Property income
Welfare and public assistance
Other income


210
190
170
150
130
110
90
70
0
Dollars
Men
current dollars
Men
1967 constant dollars
Women
current dollars
Women
1967 constant dollars
Earnings of women as a
percent of earnings of men
65
60
55
50
0
Percent
May 1967
May 1969
May 1970
May 1971
May 1972
May 1973
May 1974



33

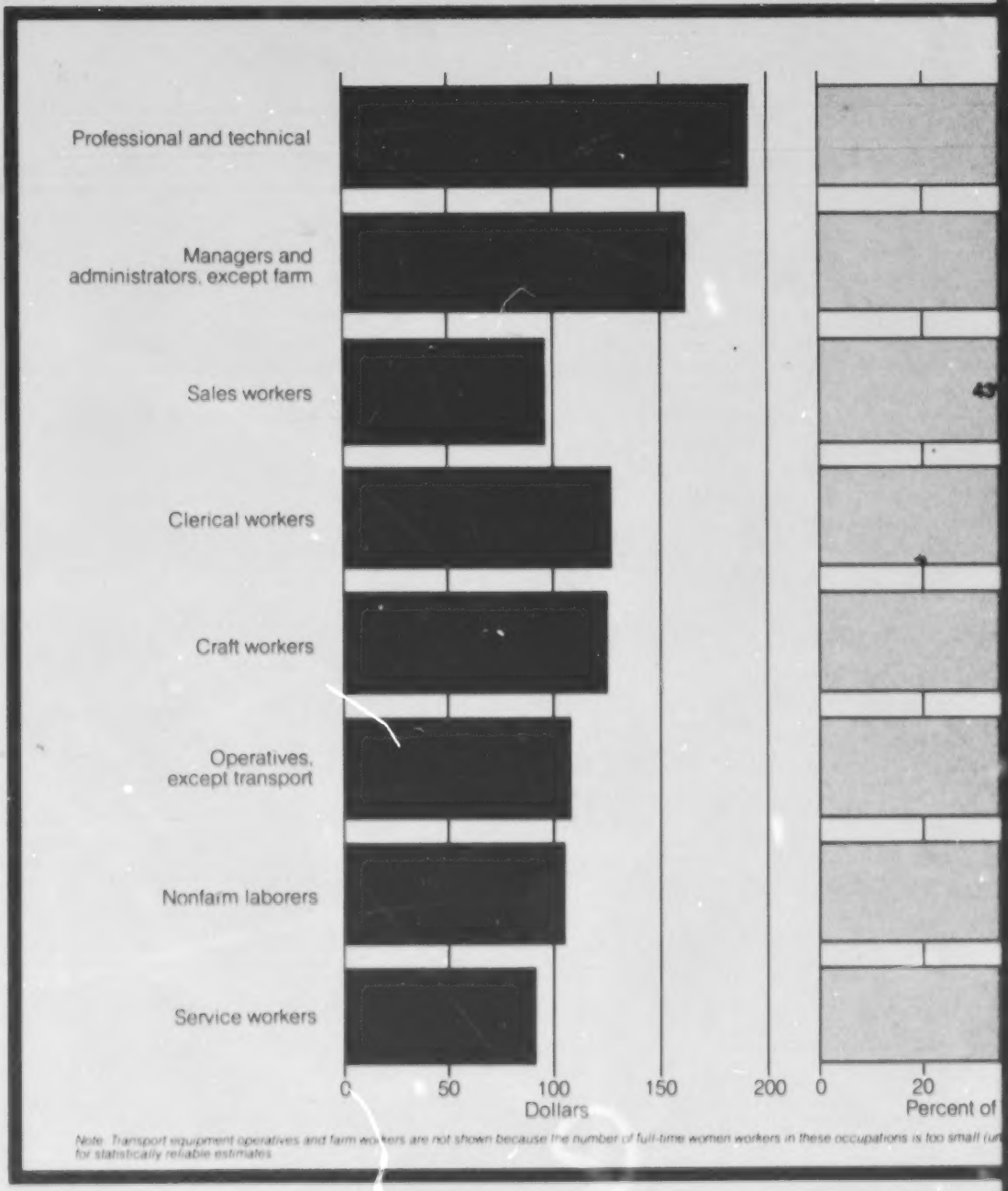
Median usual weekly earnings of full-time wage and salary workers by sex, 1967-74

From 1967 to 1974, median weekly earnings of full-time women workers remained at about 60 percent of the earnings of men working full time. During this period, the earnings of both men and women rose about 60 percent—but only about 10 percent after allowing for inflation.

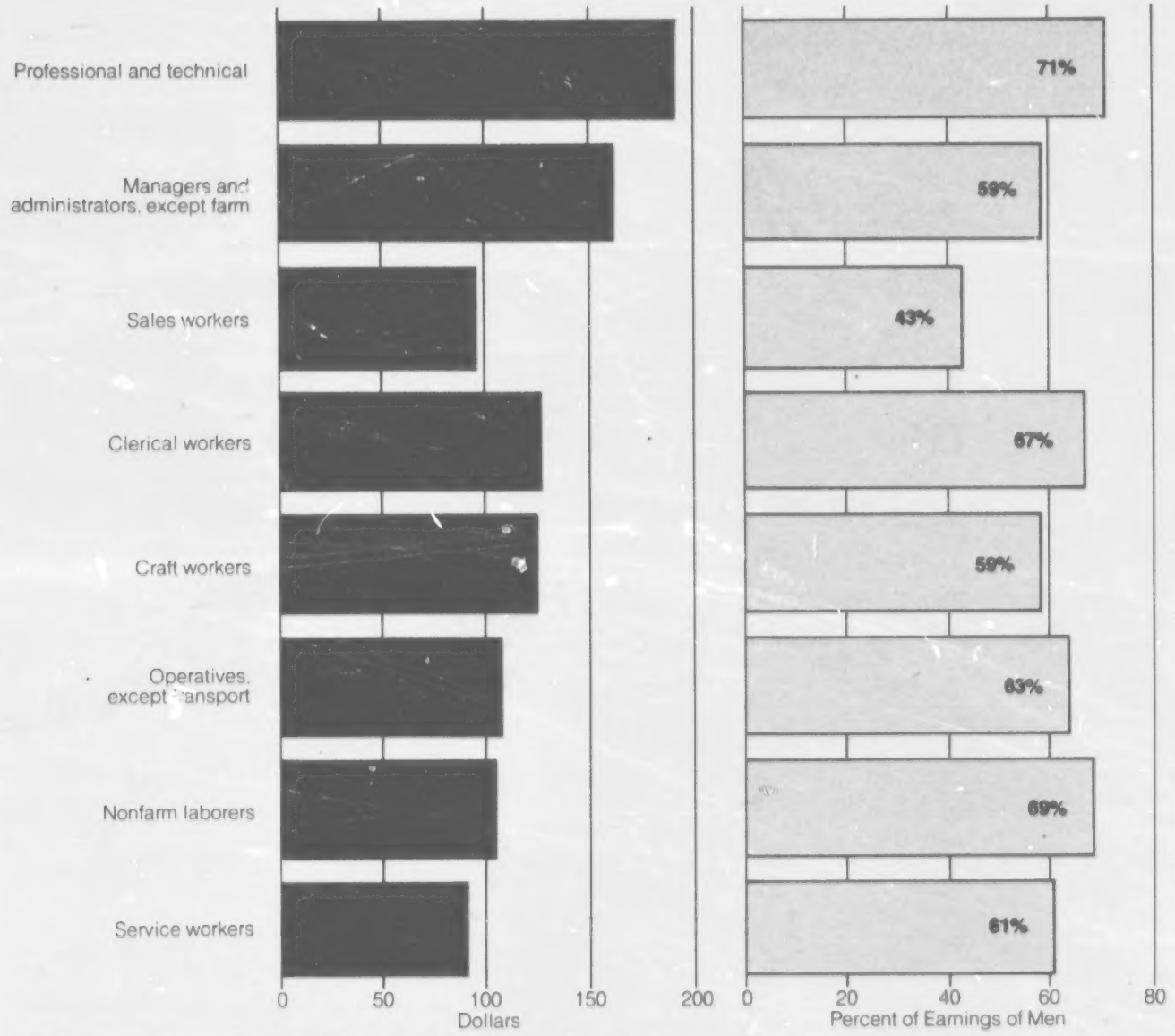
34

Median usual weekly earnings of full-time women wage and salary workers by occupation, May 1974

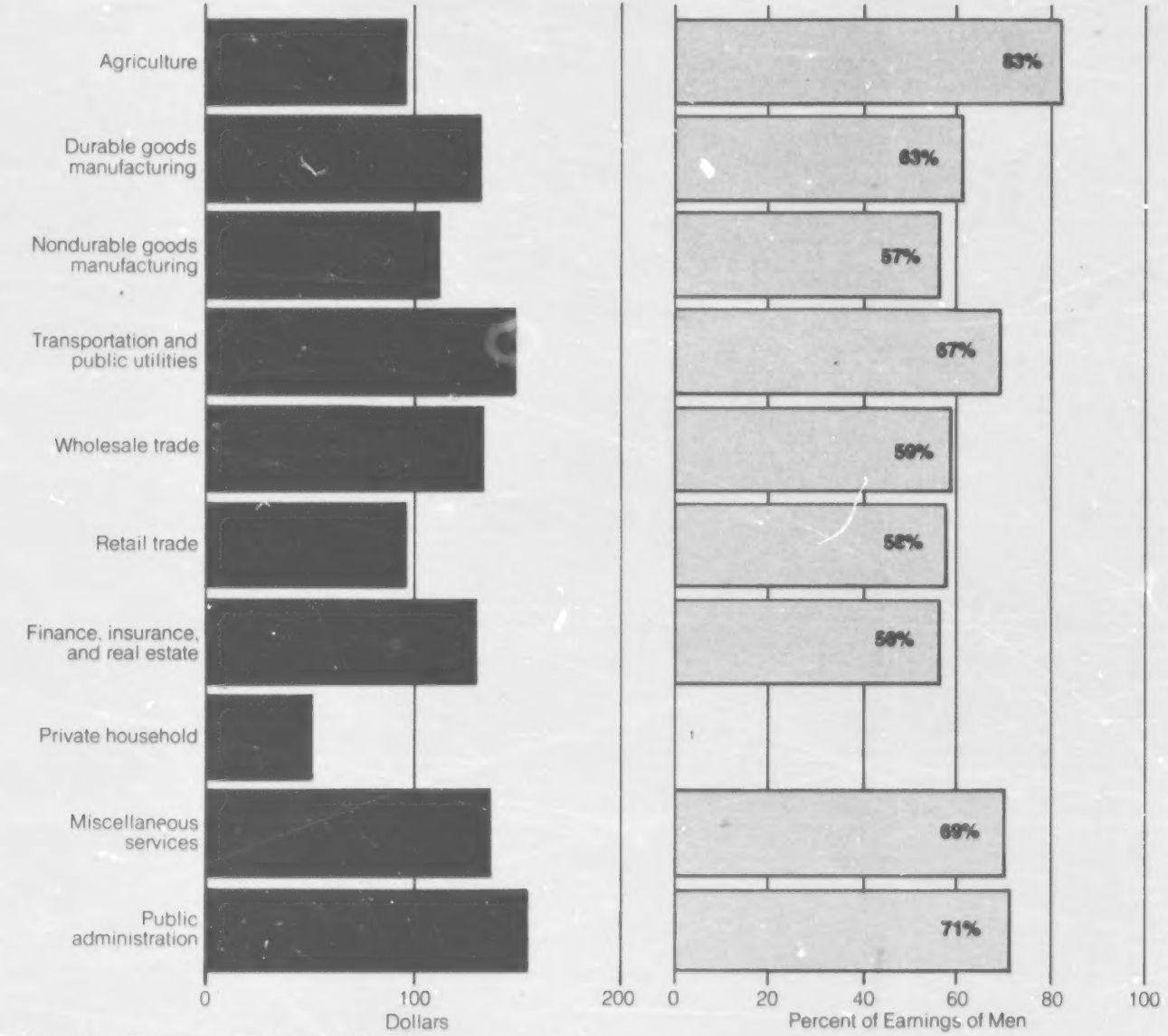
The usual weekly earnings of full-time women workers in eight broad occupational groups ranged from about 40 to 70 percent of the earnings of men.



Note: Transport equipment operatives and farm workers are not shown because the number of full-time women workers in these occupations is too small (un... for statistically reliable estimates.



Note: Transport equipment operatives and farm workers are not shown because the number of full-time women workers in these occupations is too small (under 75,000) for statistically reliable estimates.

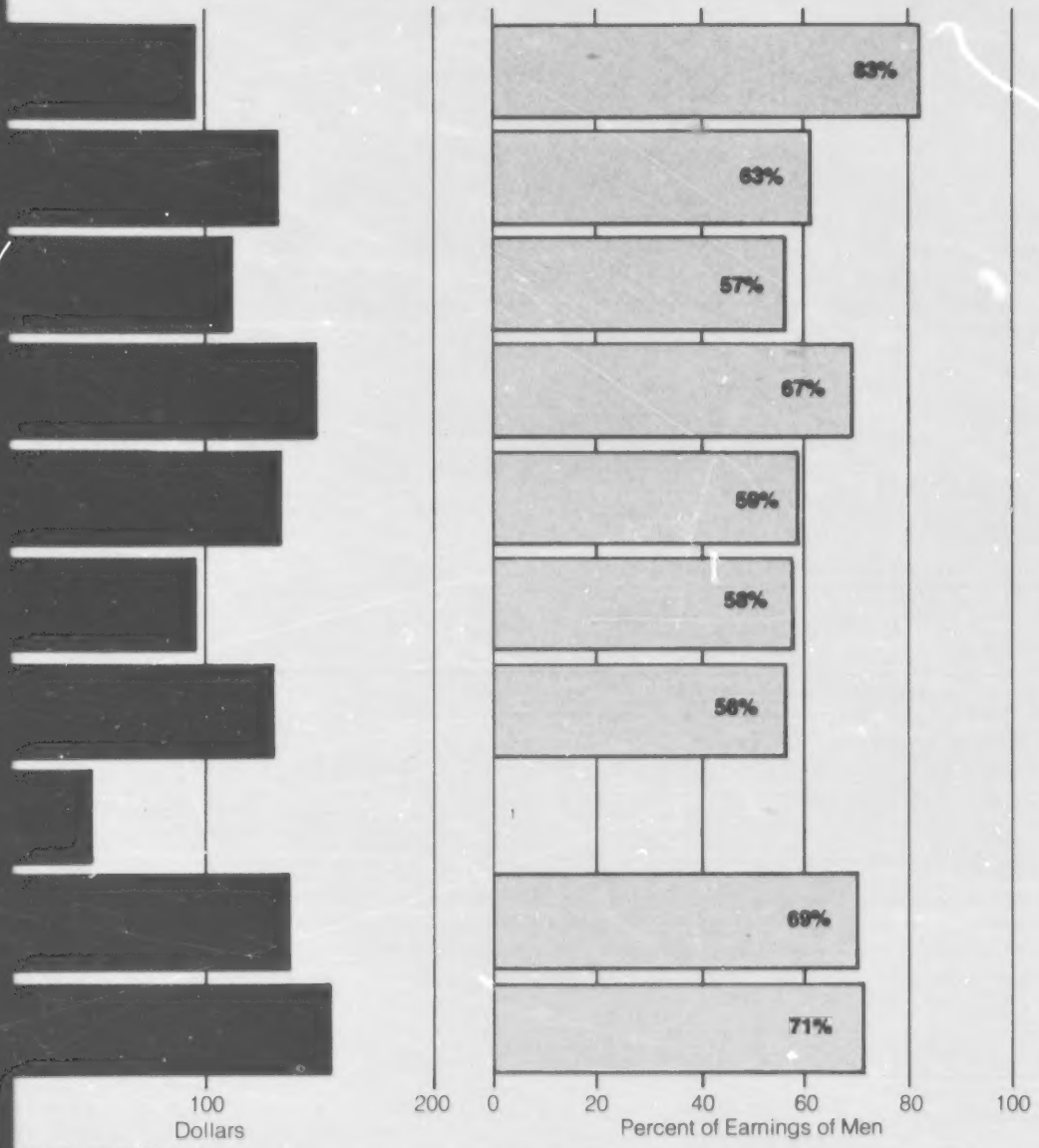


[1] Not shown because the male population base is under 75,000.

Note: The mining industry is not shown because the number of full-time women workers is too small (under 75,000) for a statistically reliable estimate.

35

Median usual weekly earnings of full-time women wage and salary workers by industry, May 1974

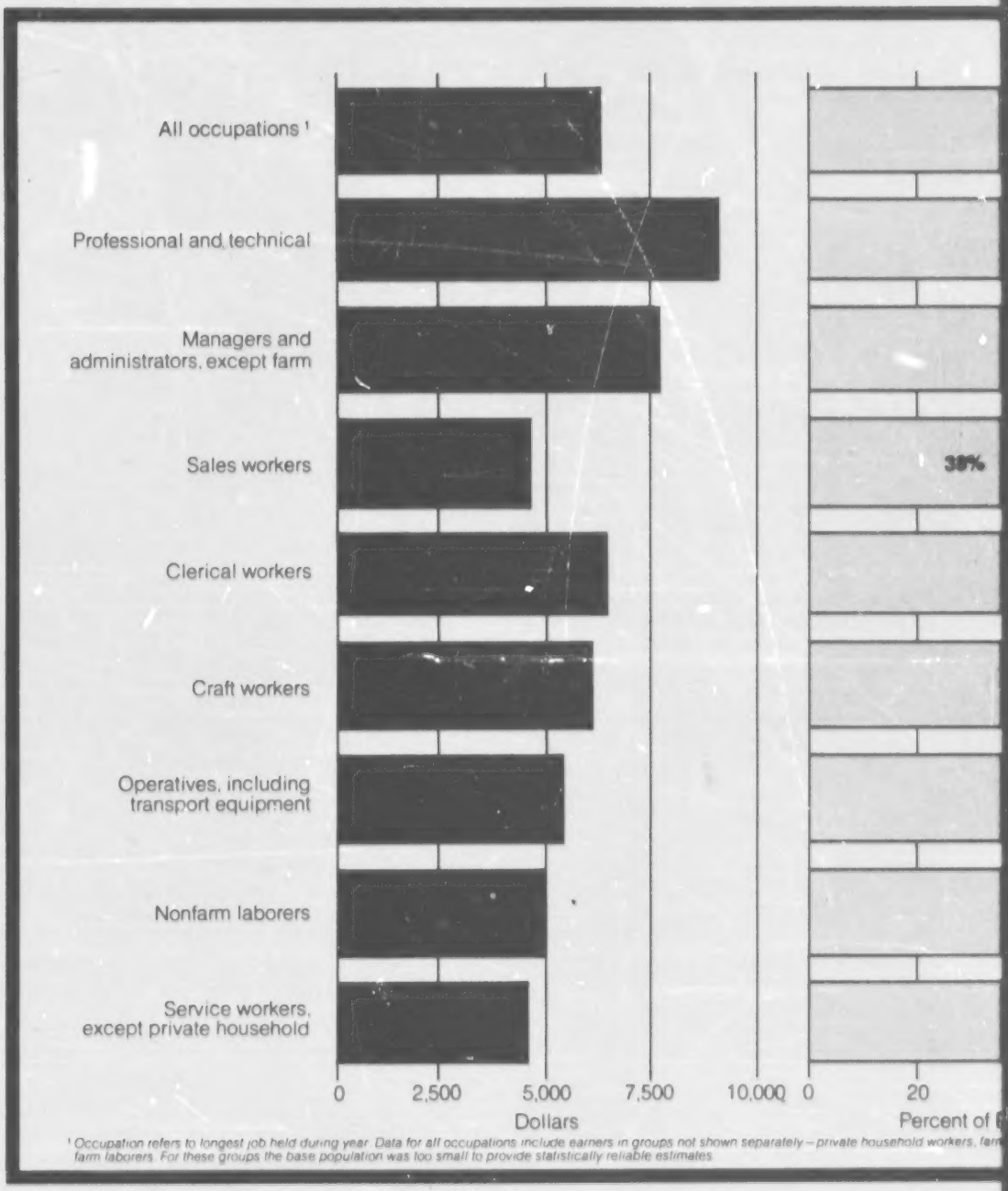


base is under 75,000
because the number of full-time women workers is too small (under 75,000) for a statistically reliable estimate

Compared to men, women fared best in agriculture and public administration.

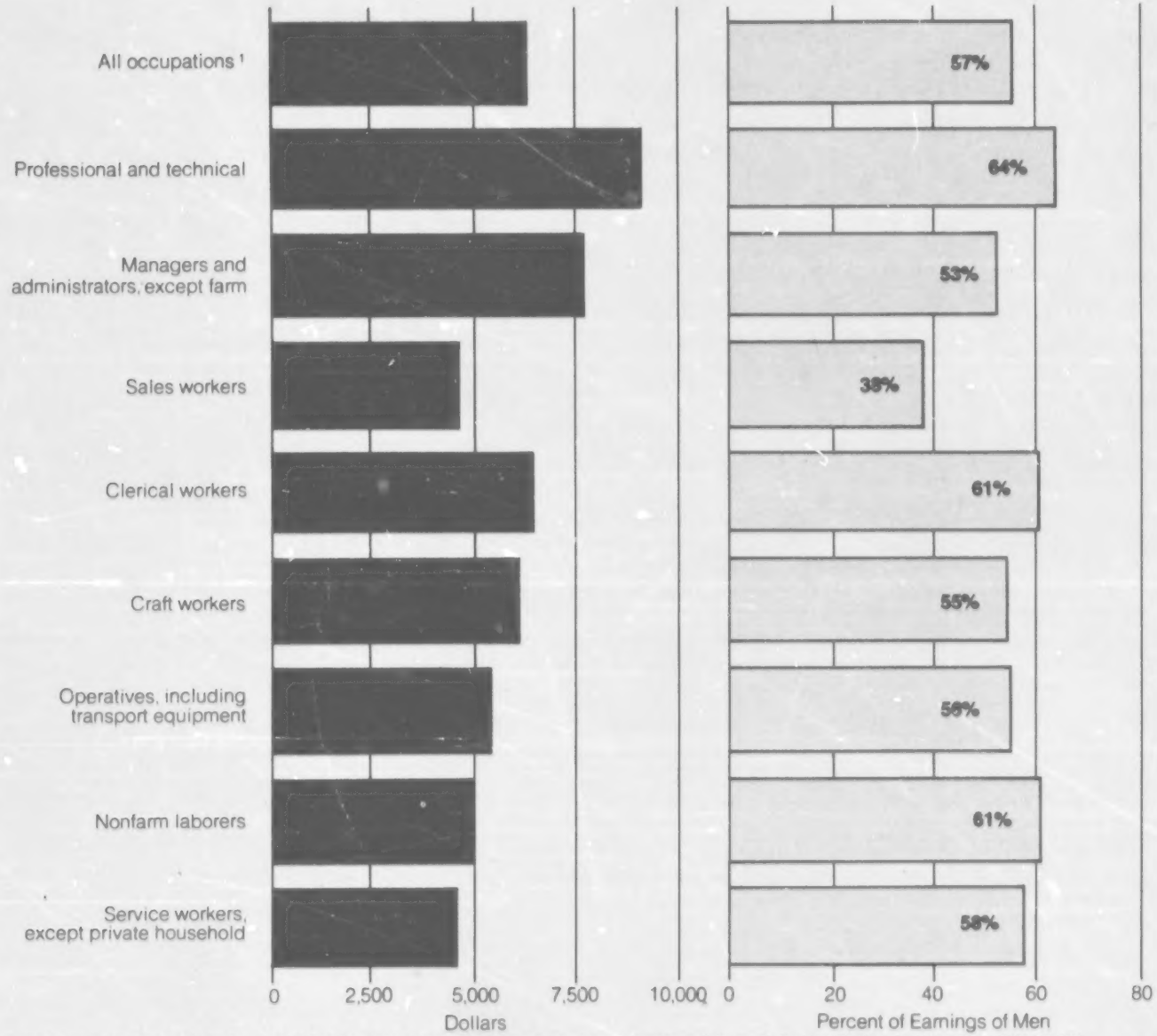
36

Median annual earnings of year-round full-time women workers by occupation, 1973

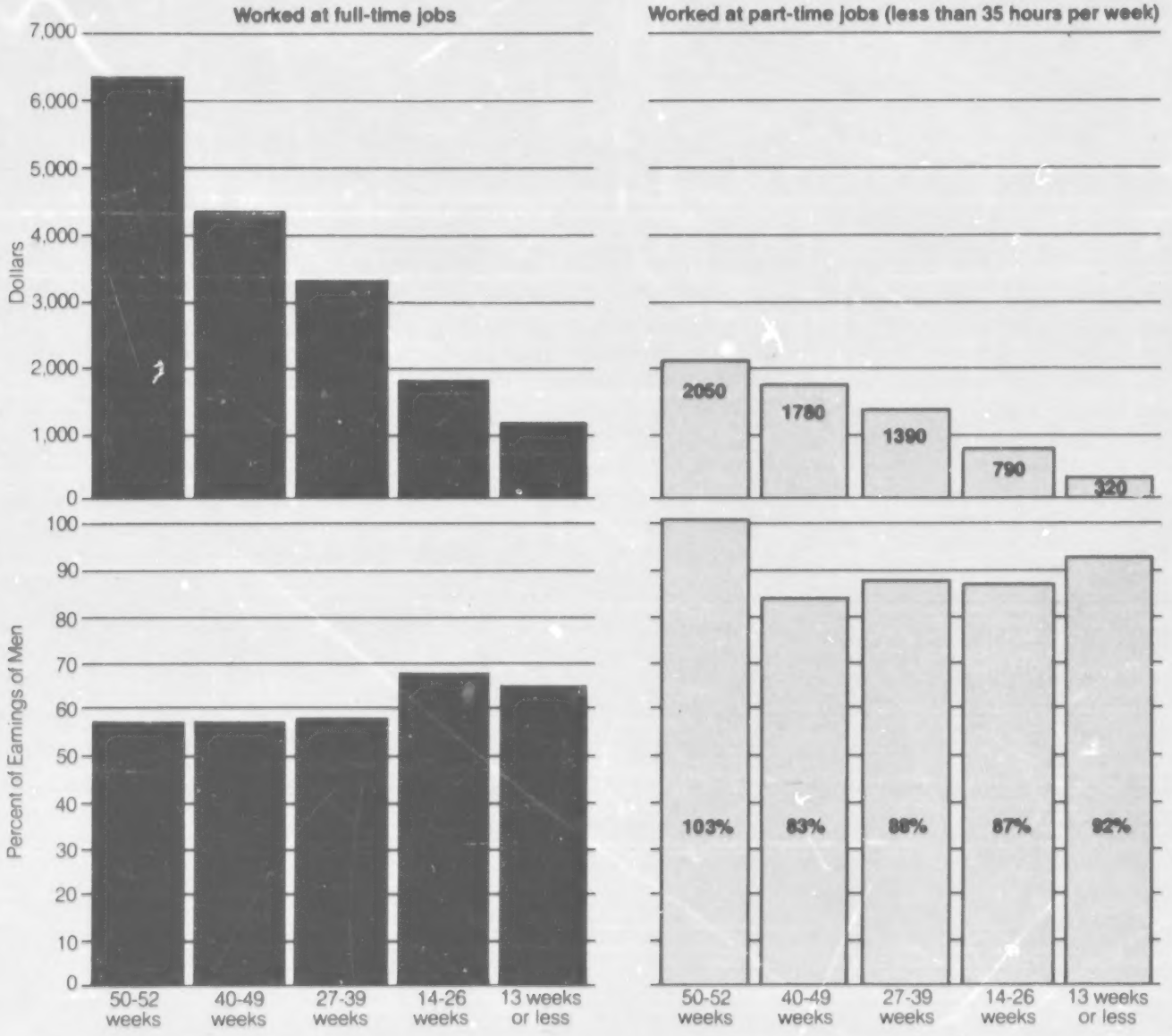


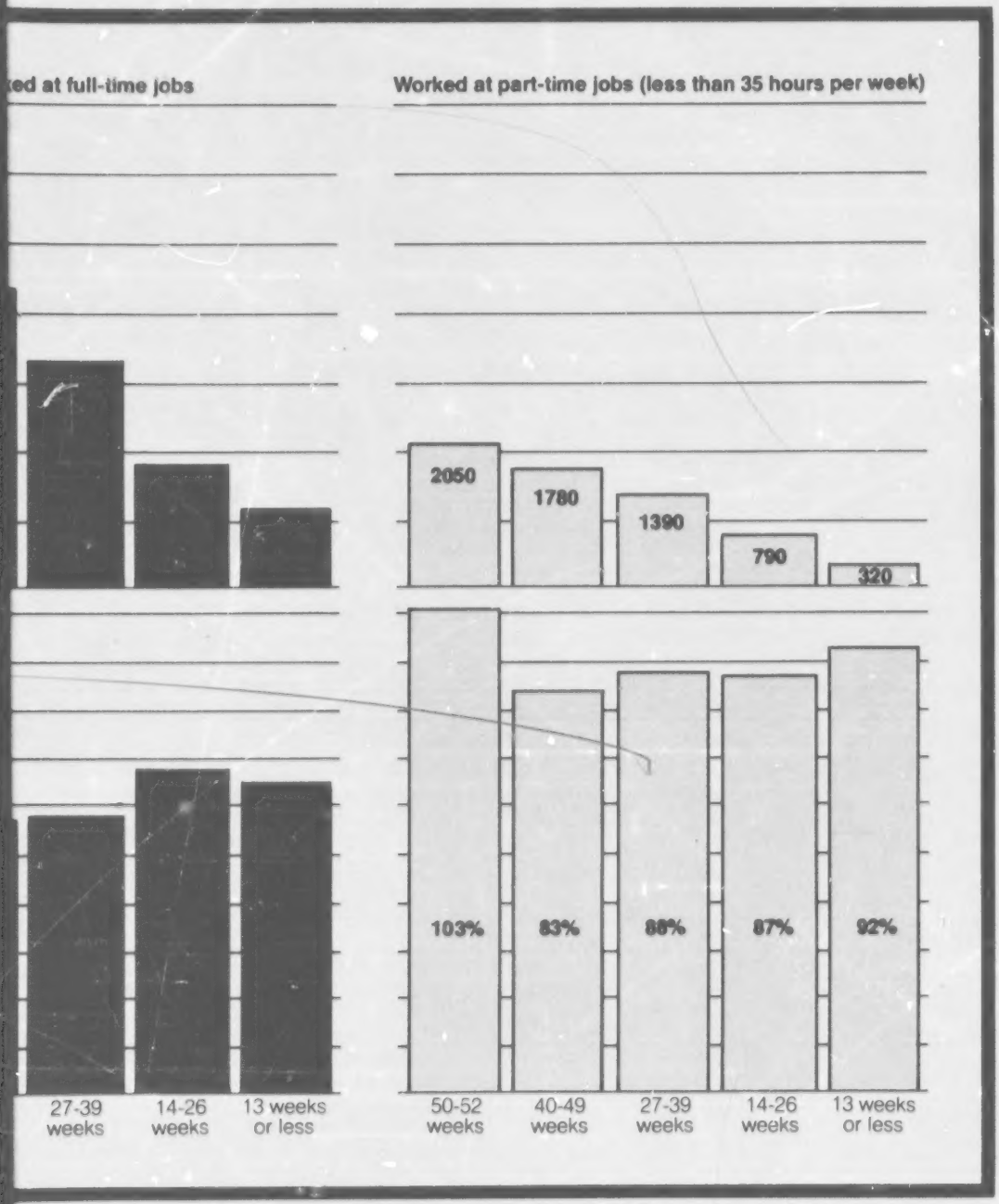
[1] Occupation refers to longest job held during year. Data for all occupations include earners in groups not shown separately – private household workers, farm laborers. For these groups the base population was too small to provide statistically reliable estimates.

Annual earnings of women varied by occupation, but in no occupational group were they as much as two-thirds of those of men employed in similar work.



[1] Occupation refers to longest job held during year. Data for all occupations include earners in groups not shown separately – private household workers, farmers and farm managers, and farm laborers. For these groups the base population was too small to provide statistically reliable estimates.


Worked at full-time jobs
Worked at part-time jobs (less than 35 hours per week)
Dollars
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
2050
1780
1390
790
320
Percent of Earnings of Men
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
103%
83%
88%
87%
92%
50-52 weeks
40-49 weeks
27-39 weeks
14-26 weeks
13 weeks or less



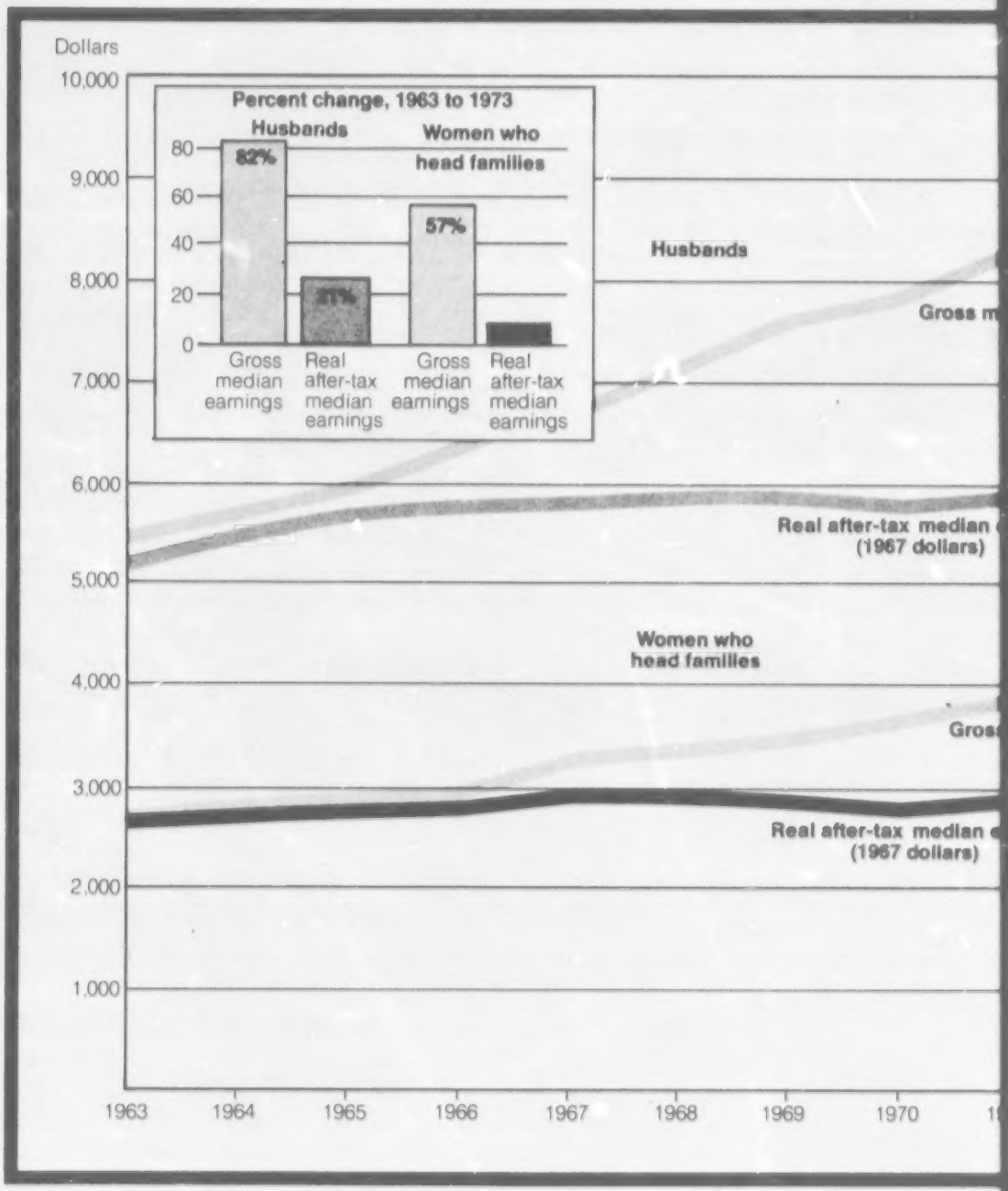
37

Median annual earnings of full and part-time women workers by weeks worked, 1973

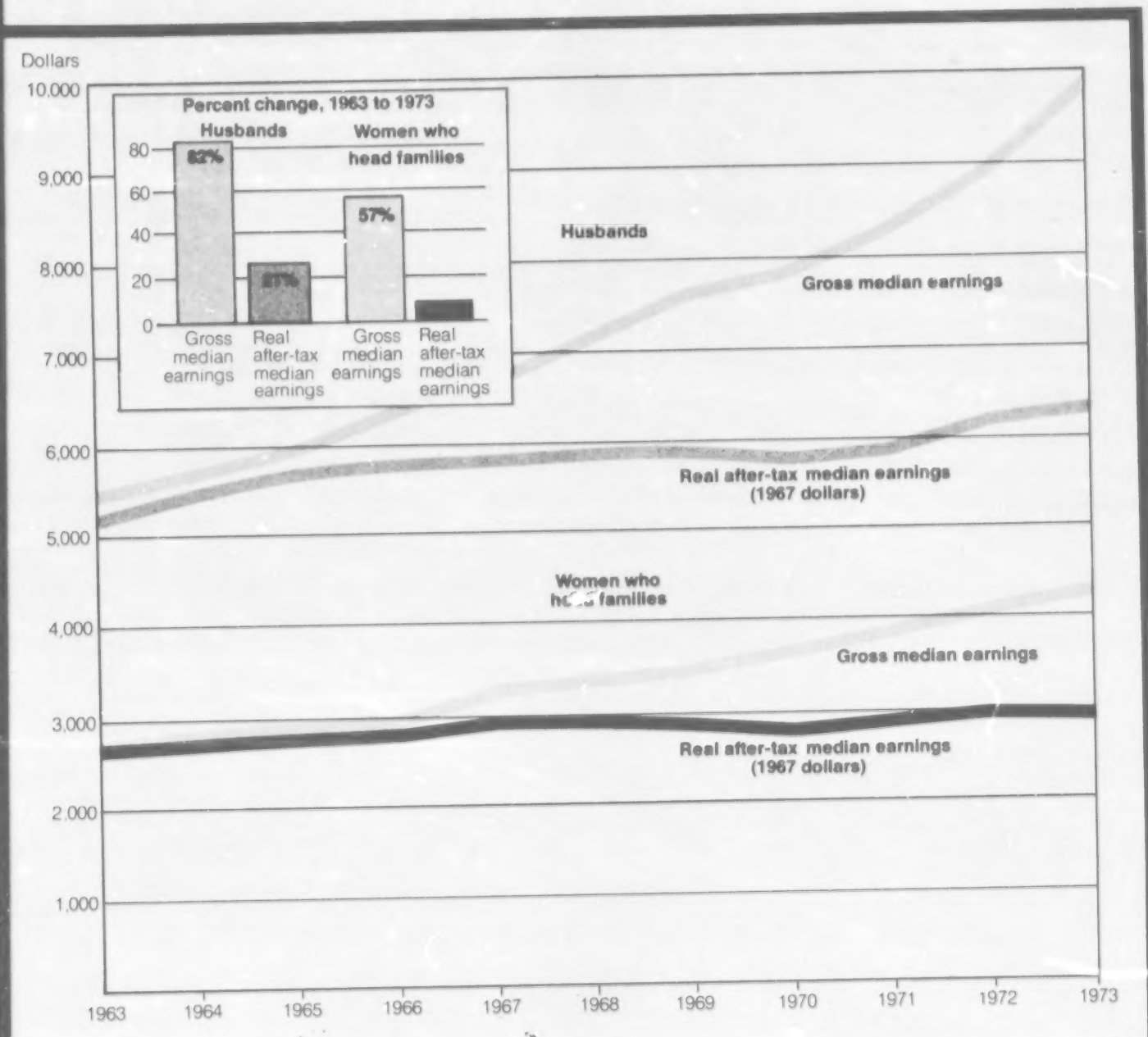
Women working at full-time jobs earned considerably less than men, even after allowing for differences in the number of weeks worked. Women working part-time were closer to parity with male part-time workers.

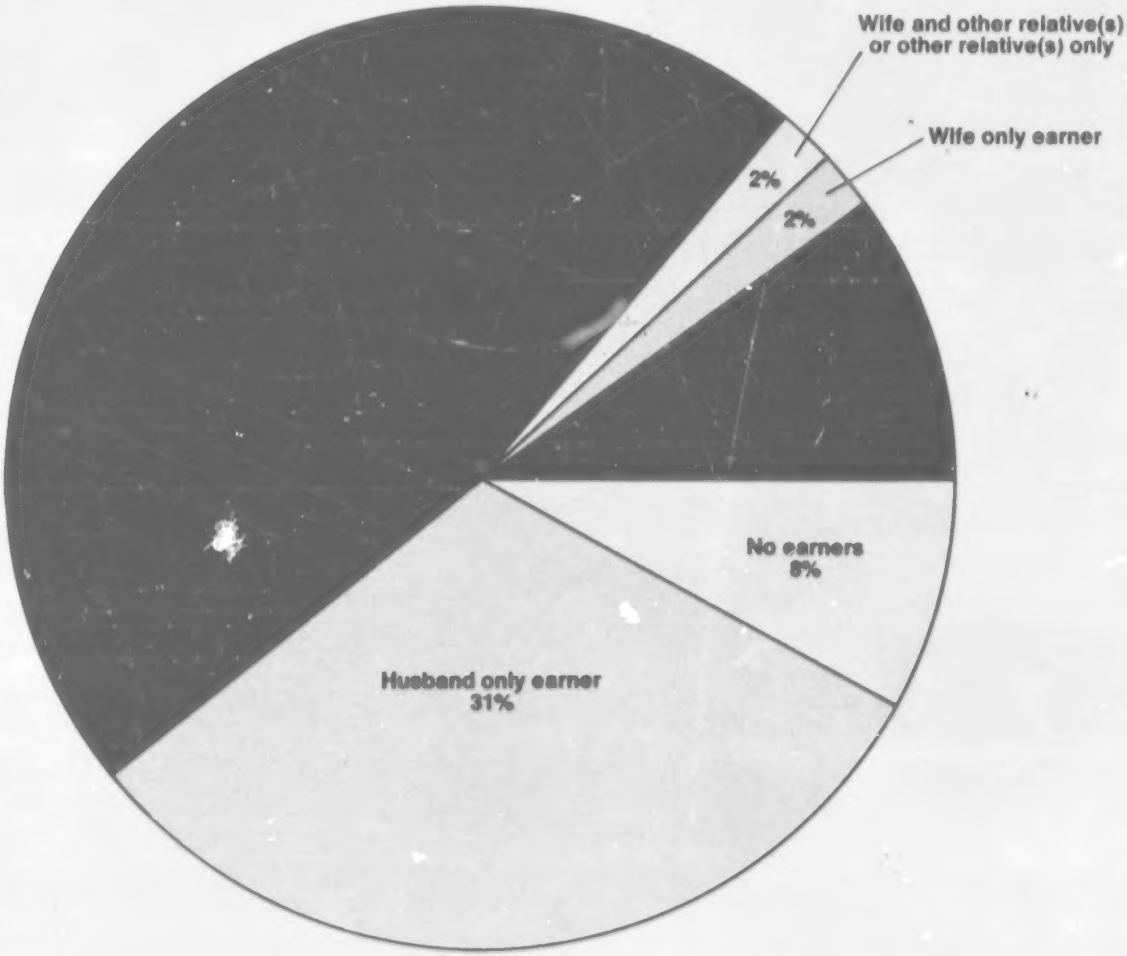
38

Median annual earnings of family heads in production and nonsupervisory jobs by sex, 1963-73



The gross median earnings of female production and nonsupervisory workers who are family heads have lagged behind those of their male counterparts. After allowing for changes in Federal income and social security taxes and consumer prices, the 10-year increase in earnings was 21 percent for men and only 8 percent for women.

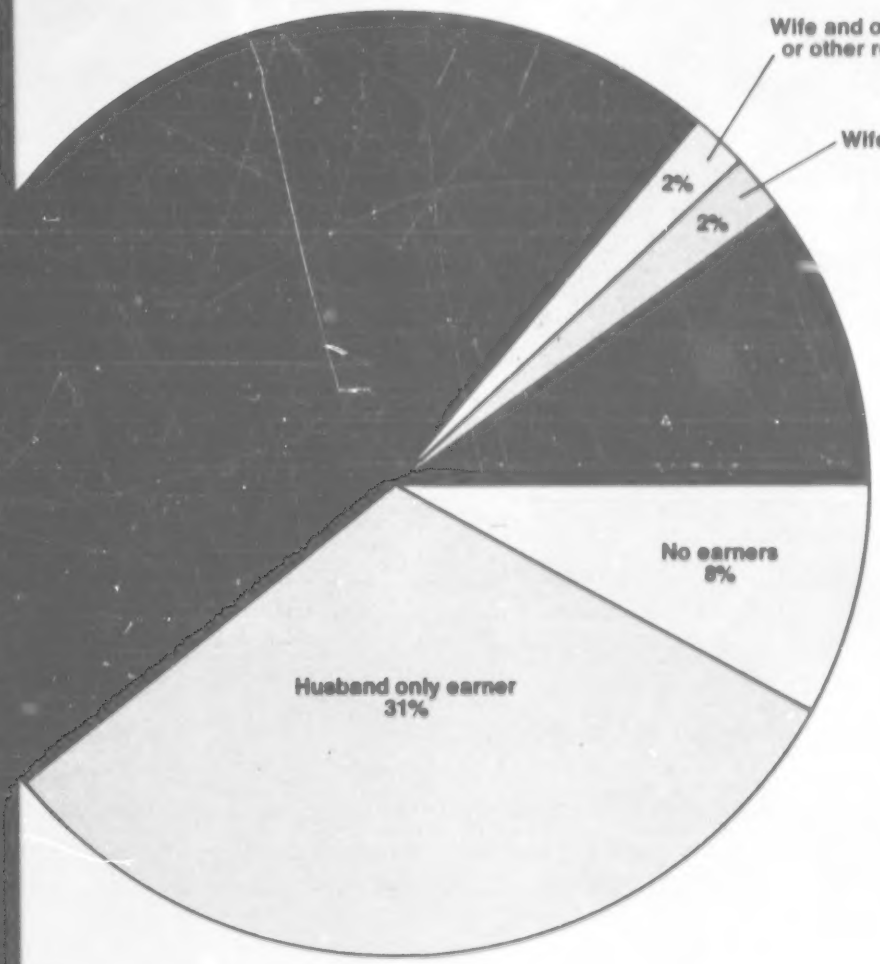

Dollars
10,000
9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
Percent change, 1963 to 1973
Husbands
Women who head families
80
60
40
20
0
82%
57%
Gross median earnings
Real after-tax median earnings
Gross median earnings
Real after-tax median earnings
Husbands
Gross median earnings
Real after-tax median earnings (1967 dollars)
Women who
Gross median earnings
Real after-tax median earnings (1967 dollars)



Note: Family status as of March 1974

39

Husband-wife families by earners in family during 1973

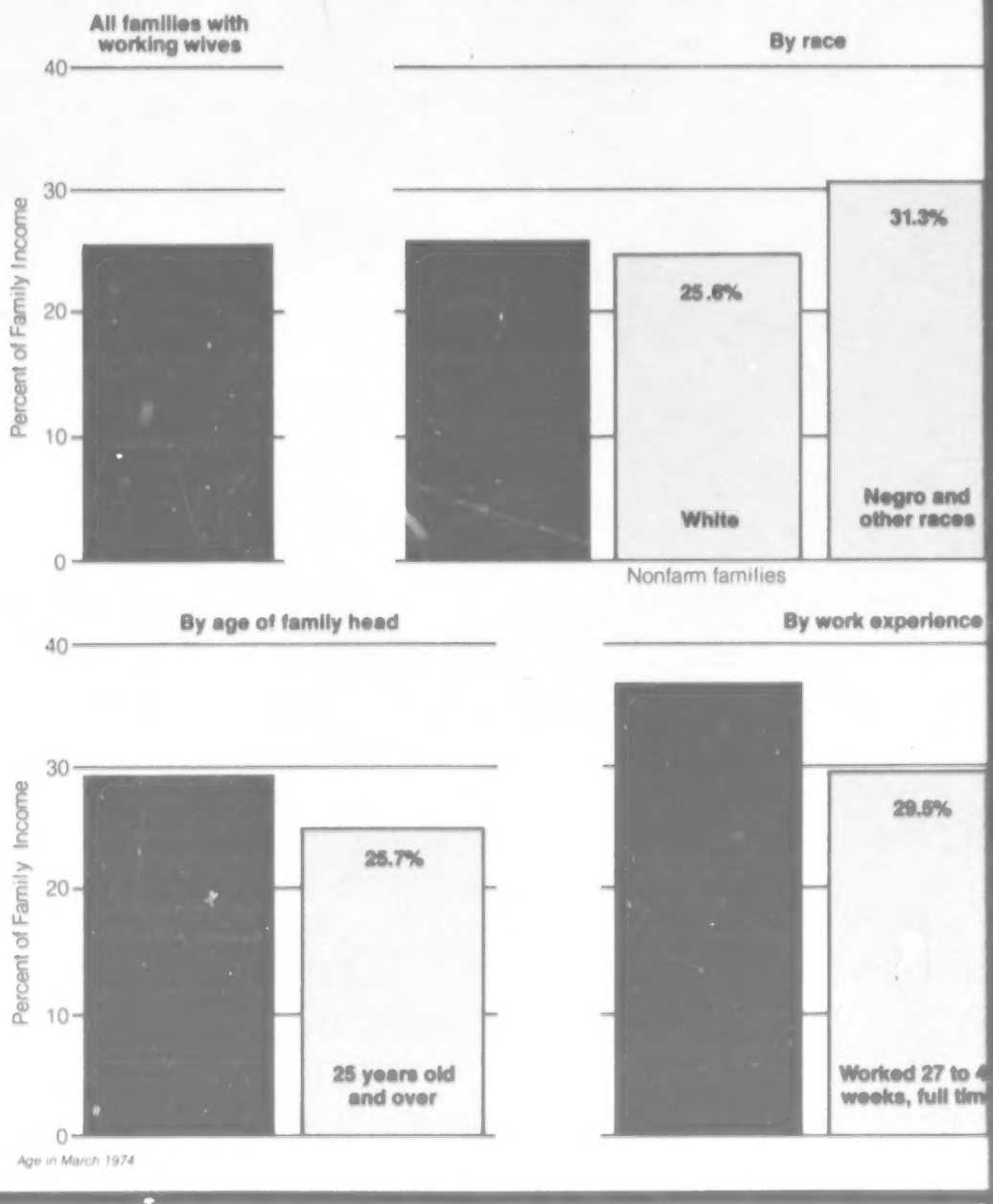


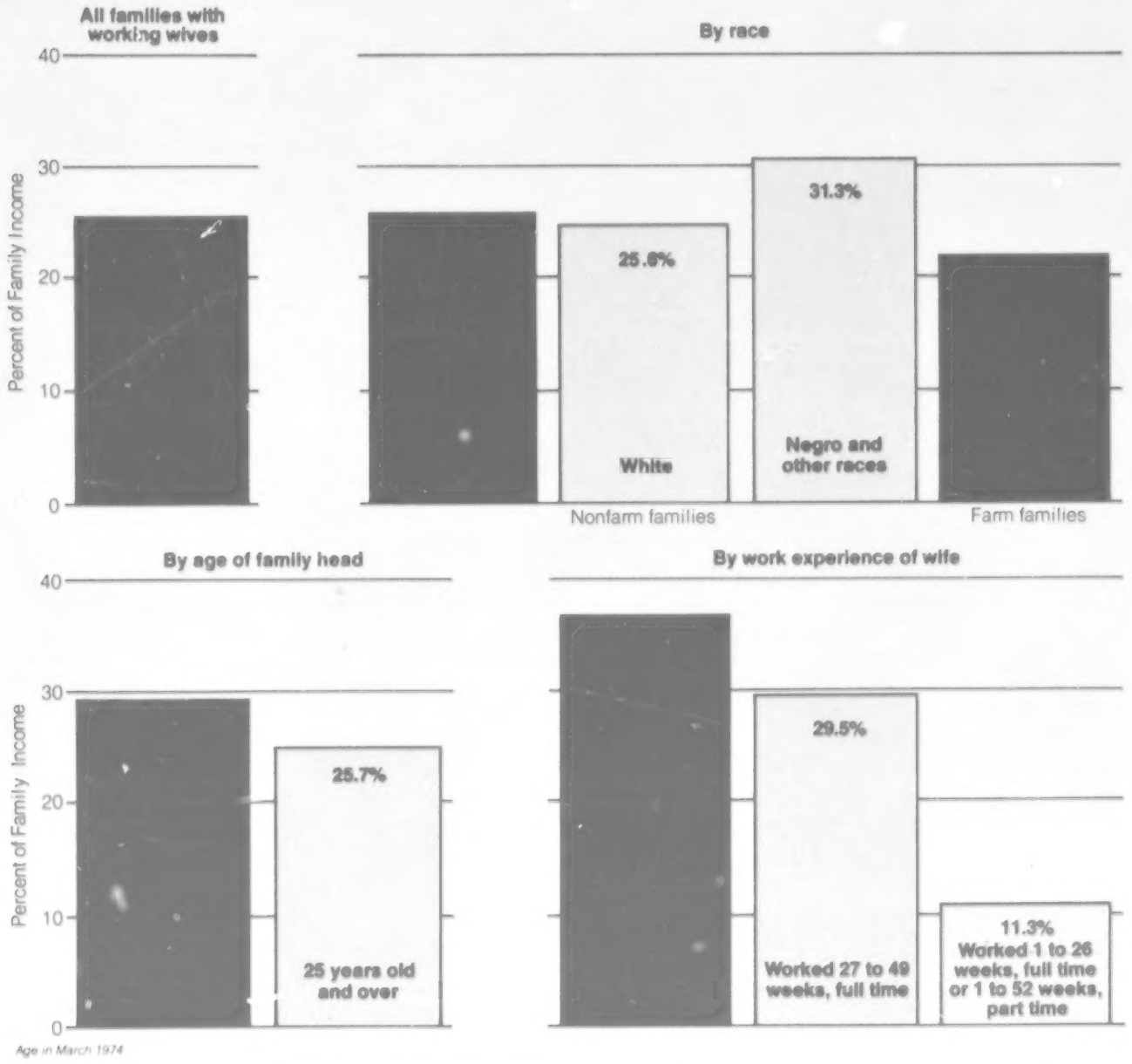
Both husband and wife were earners in nearly half of the husband-wife families.

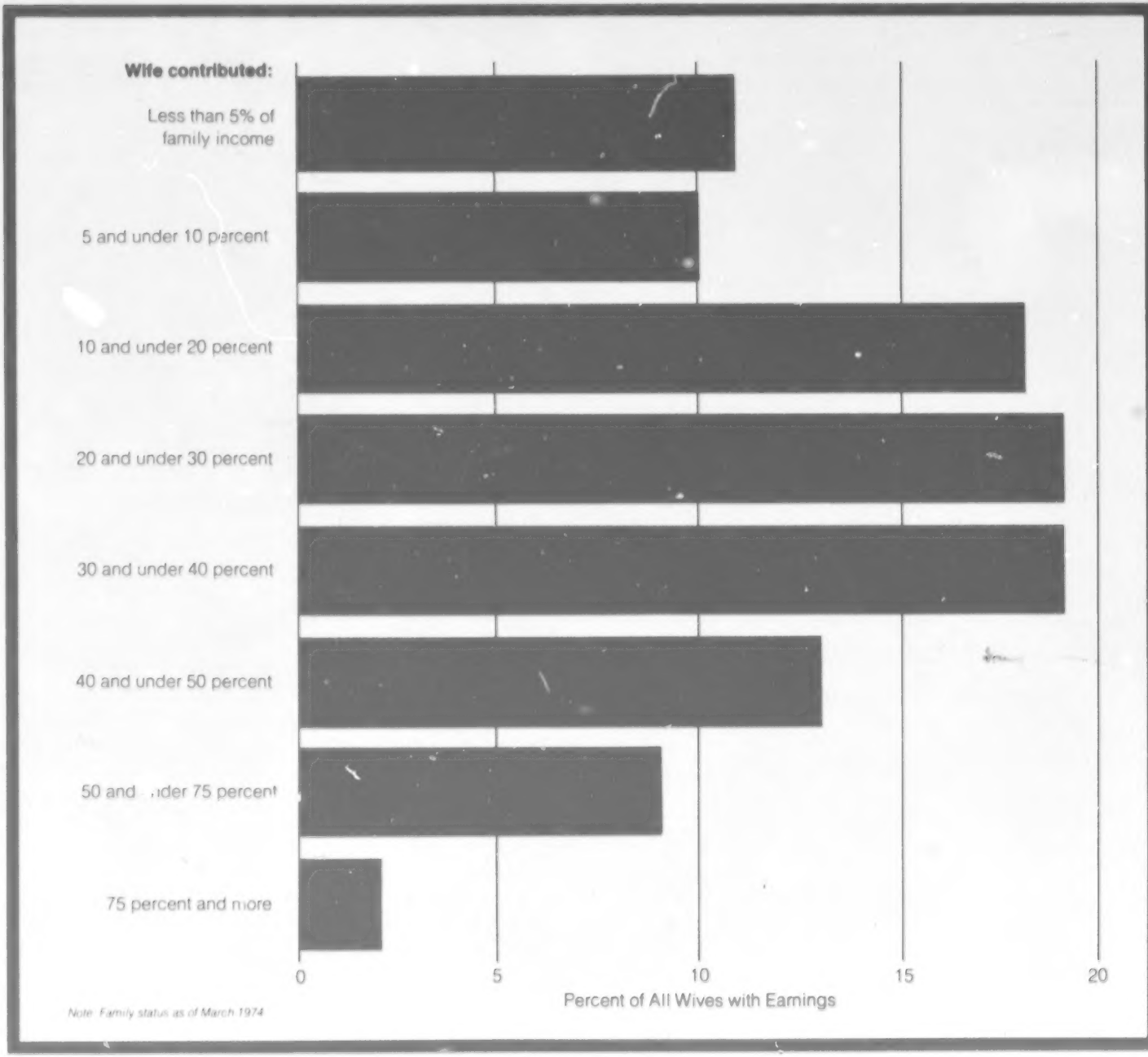
40

Earnings of women in husband-wife families as a percent of 1973 family income, by selected characteristics

In families with working wives, the wife's earnings account for about one-fourth of family income, on average. The proportion is higher in younger families and in families of minority races.



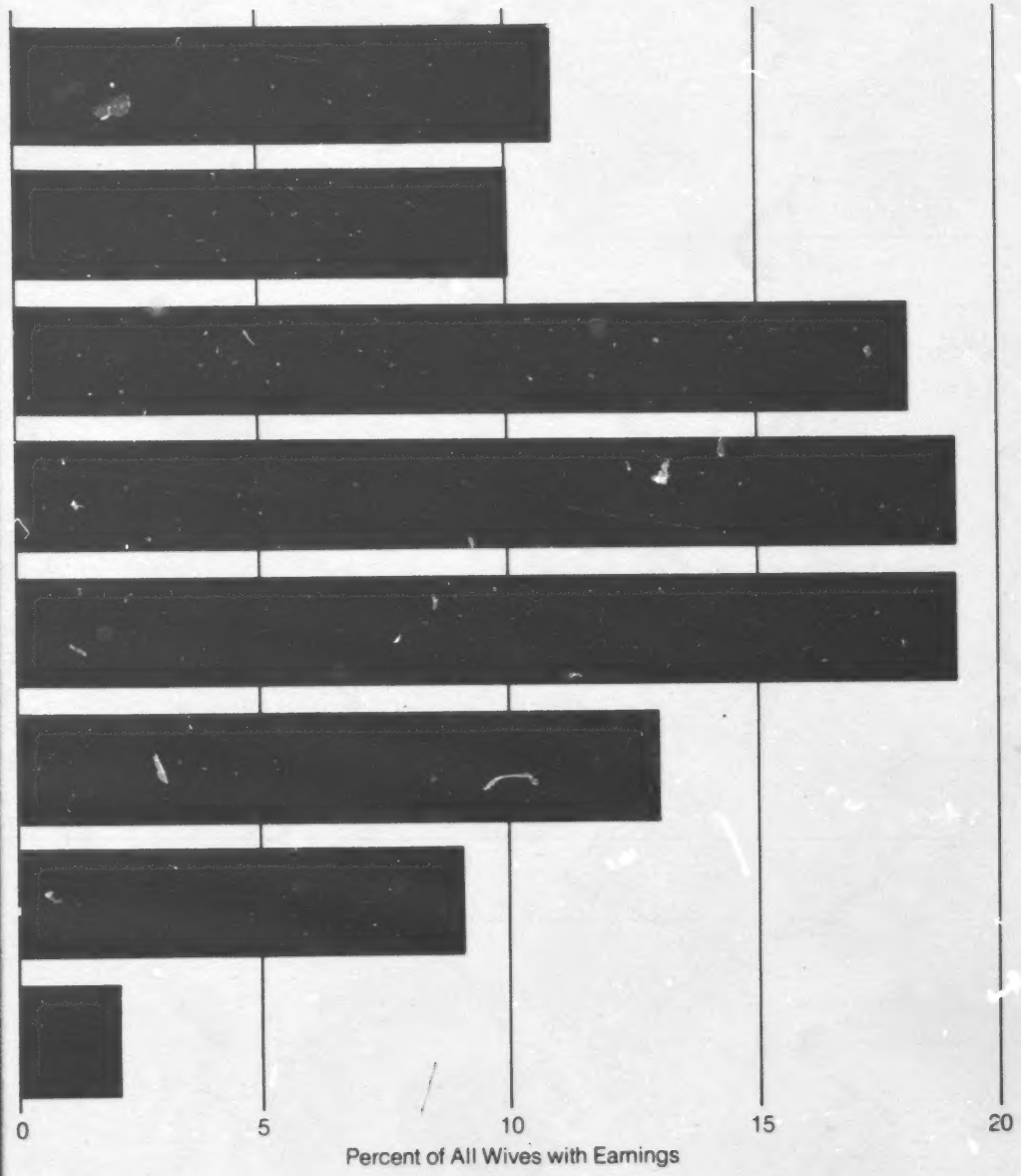

All families with working wives
By race
Percent of Family Income
40
30
20
10
0
25.8%
31.3%
White
Negro and other races
Nonfarm families
Farm families
By age of family head
By work experience of wife
25.7%
29.5%
11.3%
25 years old and over
Worked 27 to 49 weeks, full time
Worked 1 to 26 weeks, full time or 1 to 52 weeks, part time
Age in March 1974



Note: Family status as of March 1974

41

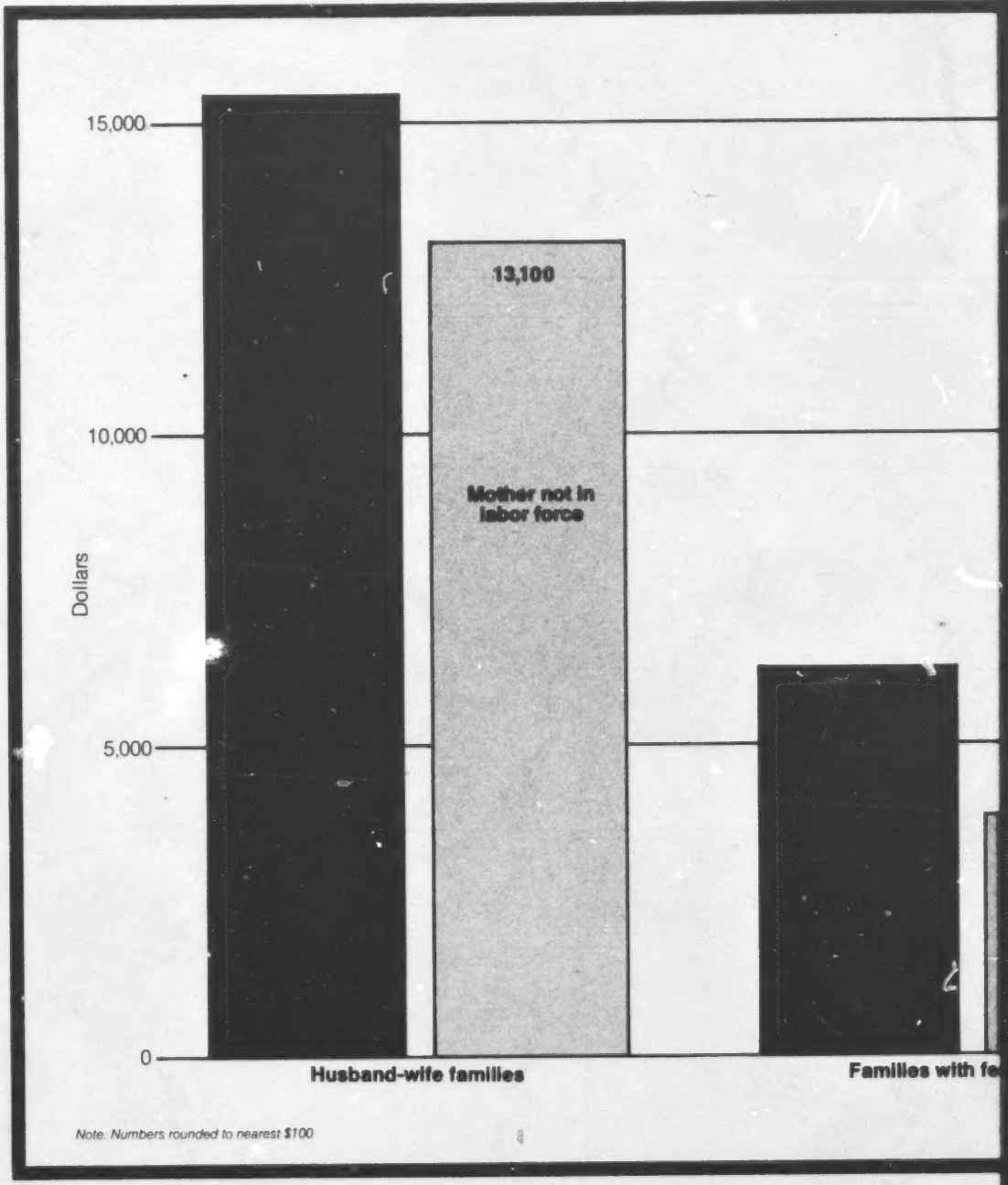
Wives with earnings by percent of 1973 family income



In families where the wife was an earner, she most commonly contributed between 20 and 40 percent of the family income.

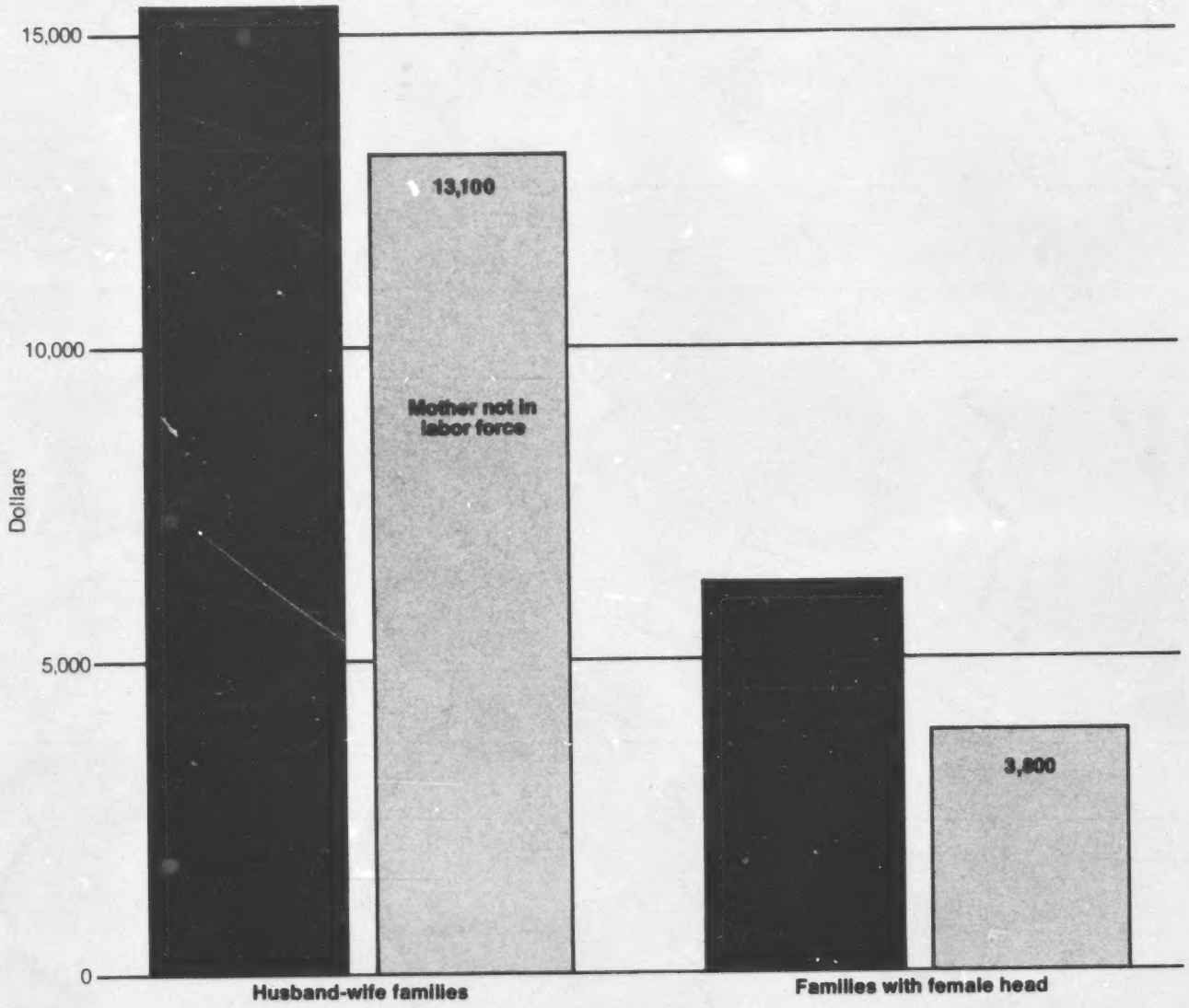
42

Median 1973 income of families with children by type of family and labor force status of mother, March 1974

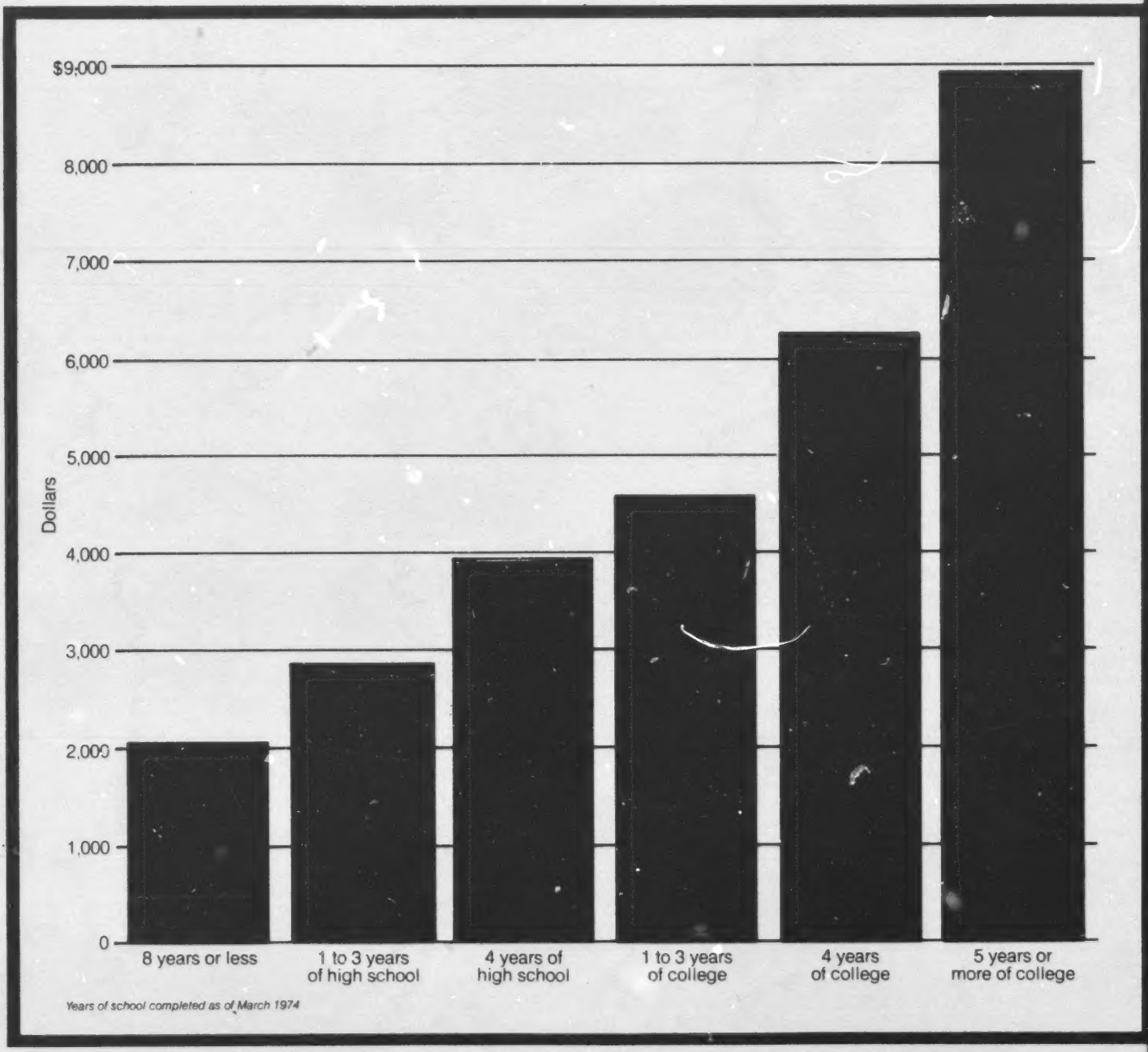


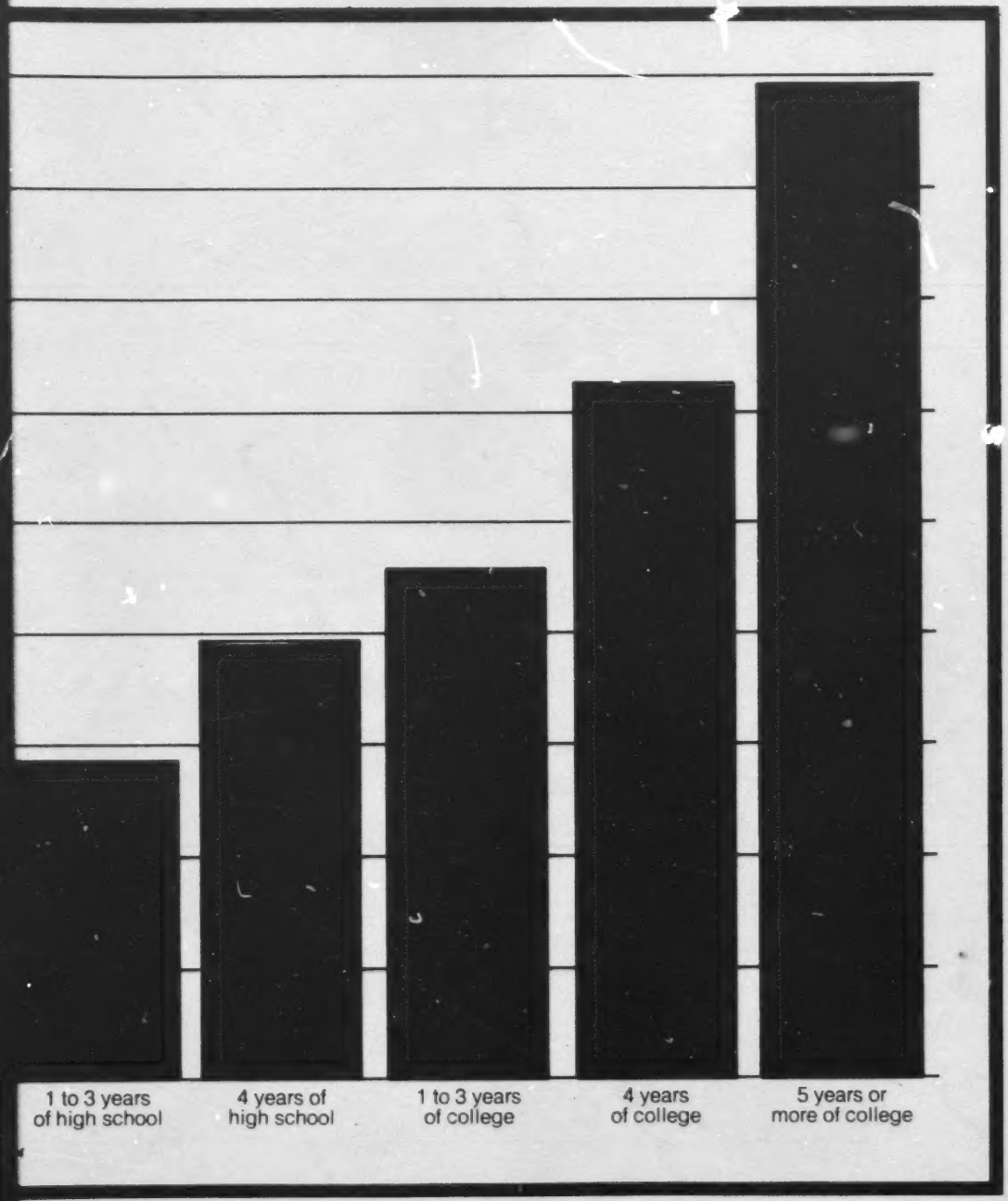
Note. Numbers rounded to nearest $100

Children of working mothers are typically in higher income families.



Note: Numbers rounded to nearest $100


$9,000
8,000
7,000
6,000
5,000
4,000
3,000
2,000
1,000
0
Dollars
8 years or less
1 to 3 years of high school
4 years of high school
1 to 3 years of college
4 years of college
5 years or more of college
Years of school completed as of March 1974



43

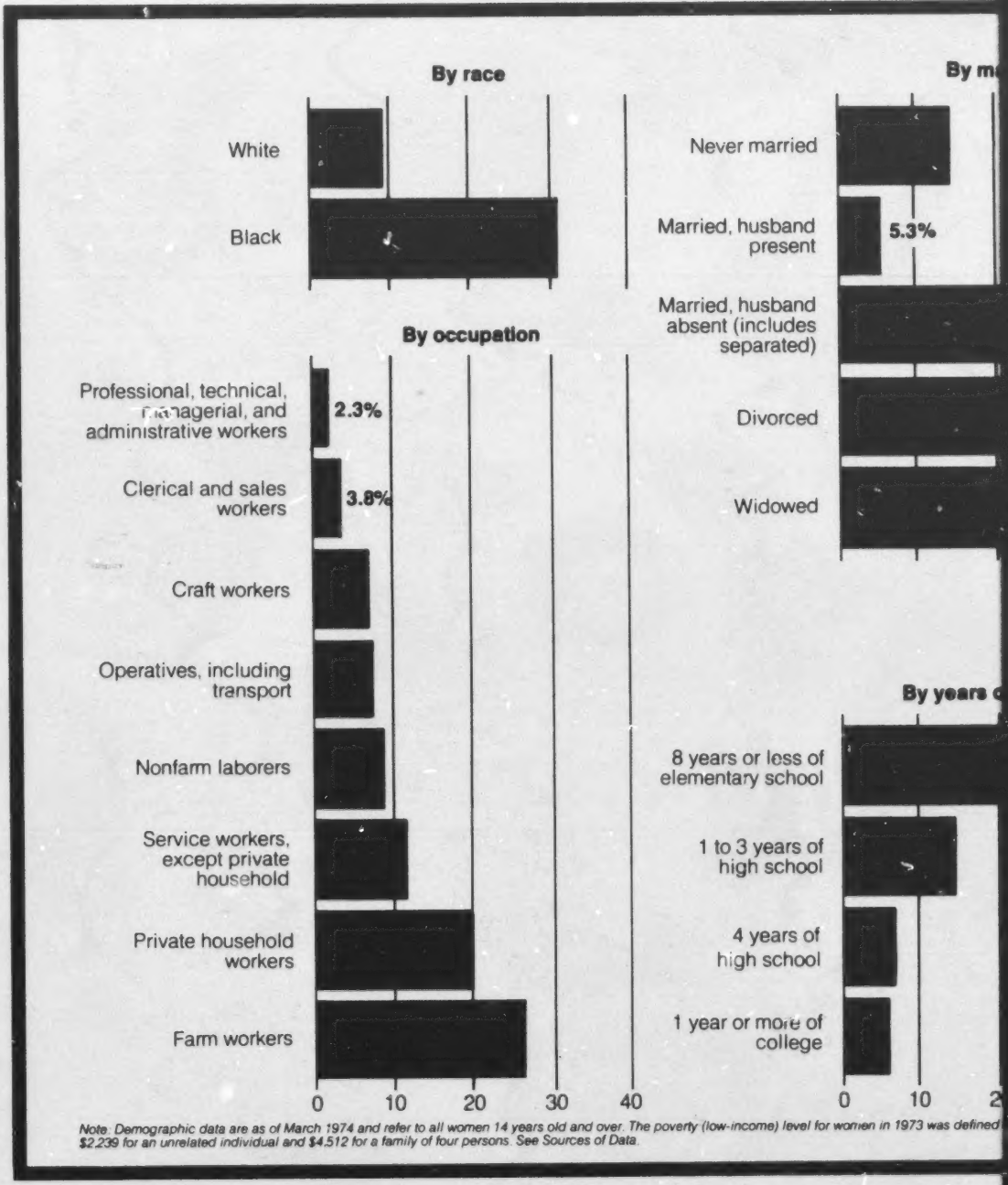
Median 1973 income of women with income by years of school completed

On average, the more years of formal schooling a woman has, the higher her income.

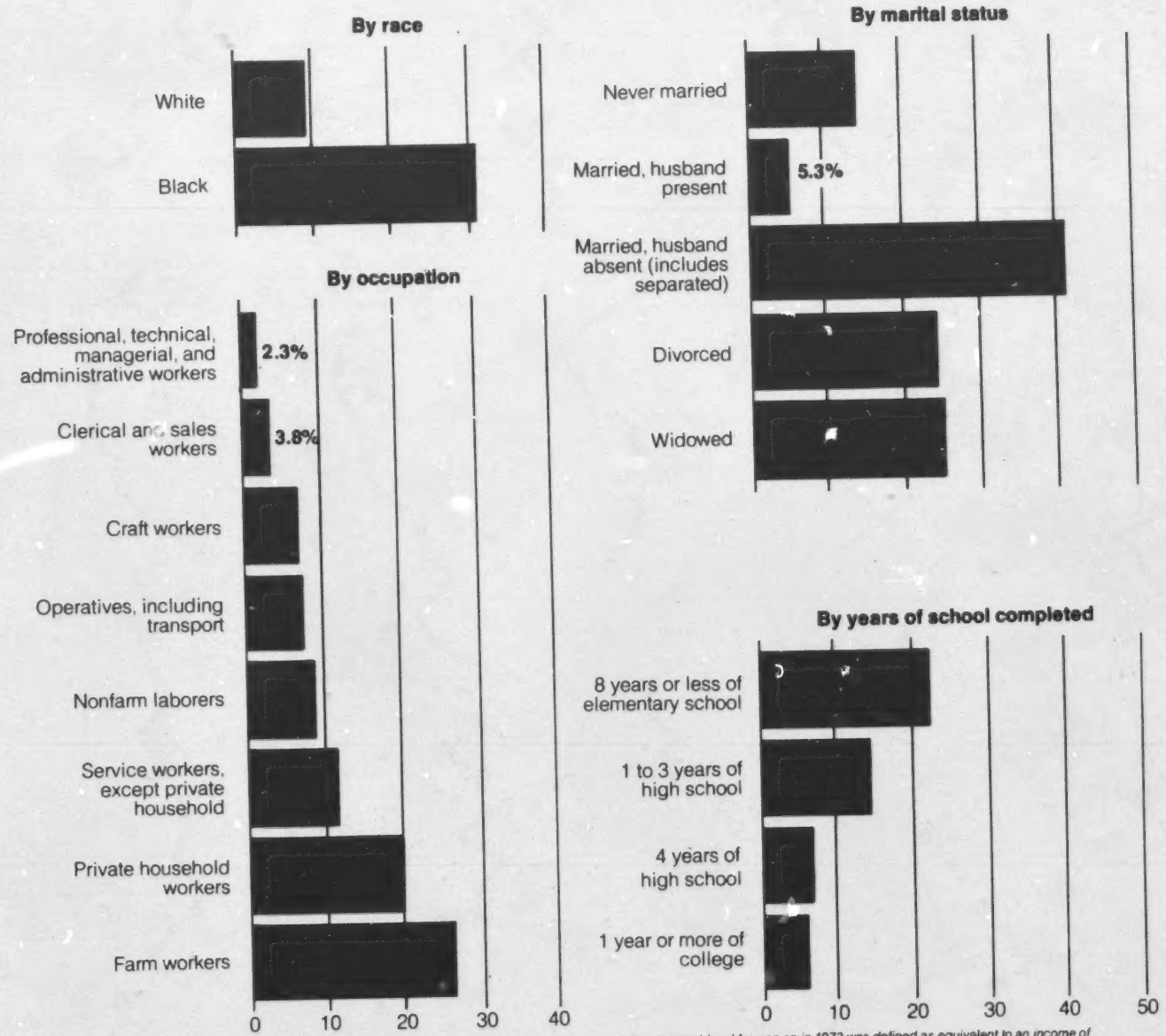
44

Women below the poverty level, 1973, by selected character-istics

Black women are more than three times as likely as white women to be below the poverty level. The proportion of women in poverty also varies by occupation, marital status, and education.



Note: Demographic data are as of March 1974 and refer to all women 14 years old and over. The poverty (low-income) level for women in 1973 was defined as $2,239 for an unrelated individual and $4,512 for a family of four persons. See Sources of Data.



Note: Demographic data are as of March 1974 and refer to all women 14 years old and over. The poverty (low-income) level for women in 1973 was defined as equivalent to an income of $2,239 for an unrelated individual and $4,512 for a family of four persons. See Sources of Data.

Education

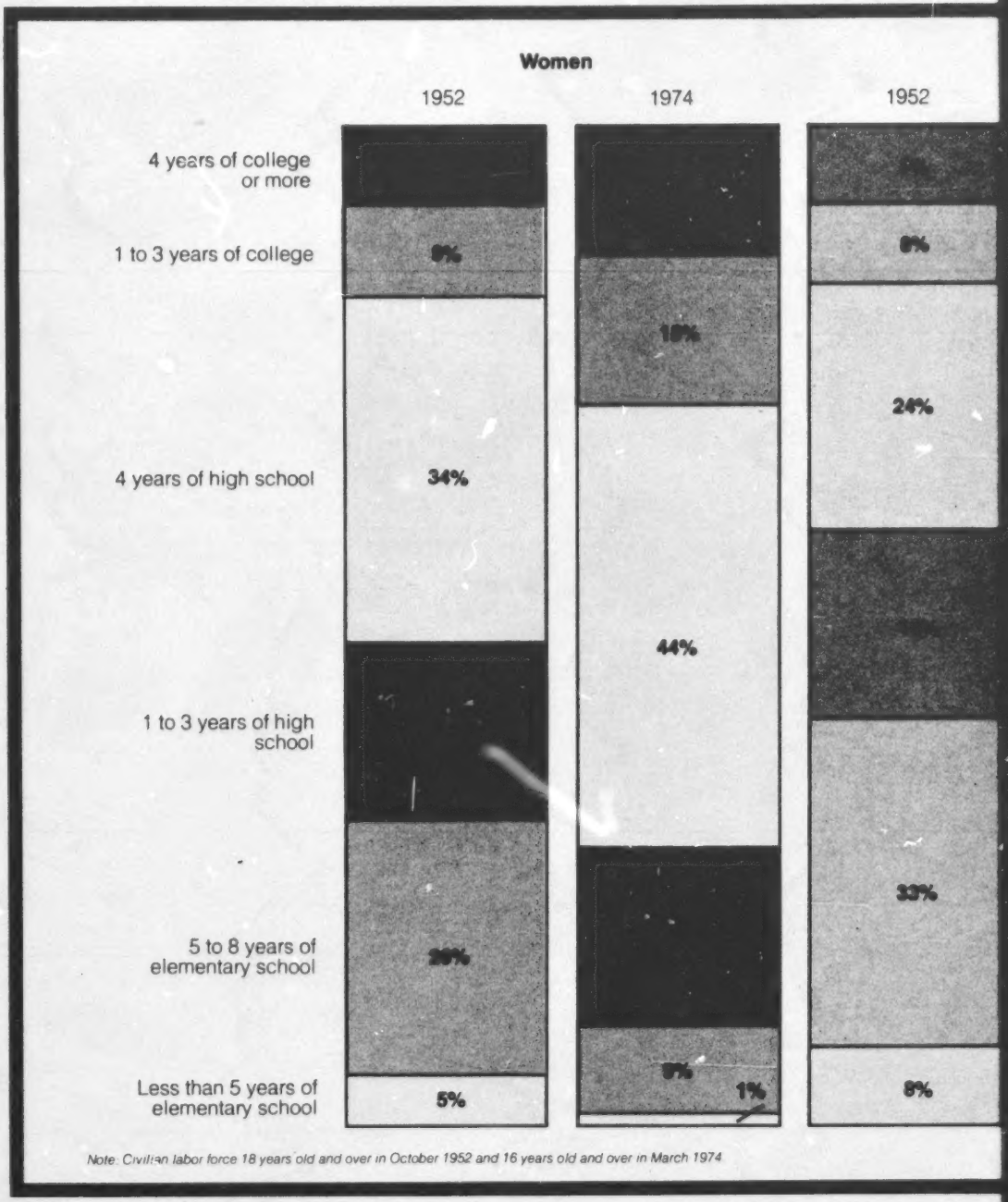
Part IV

Working women, on the average, had more formal schooling than working men in the 1950's, but since then, their level of education has not risen as rapidly as men's. In 1952, about 51 percent of the working women had completed high school, compared with 40 percent for men. By 1974 the gap had narrowed, with 72 percent of women workers having graduated from high school, compared with 67 percent for men.

Women who have more education are more likely to be in the labor force, less likely to be unemployed, and more likely to be in the higher paying occupations than women with less schooling.

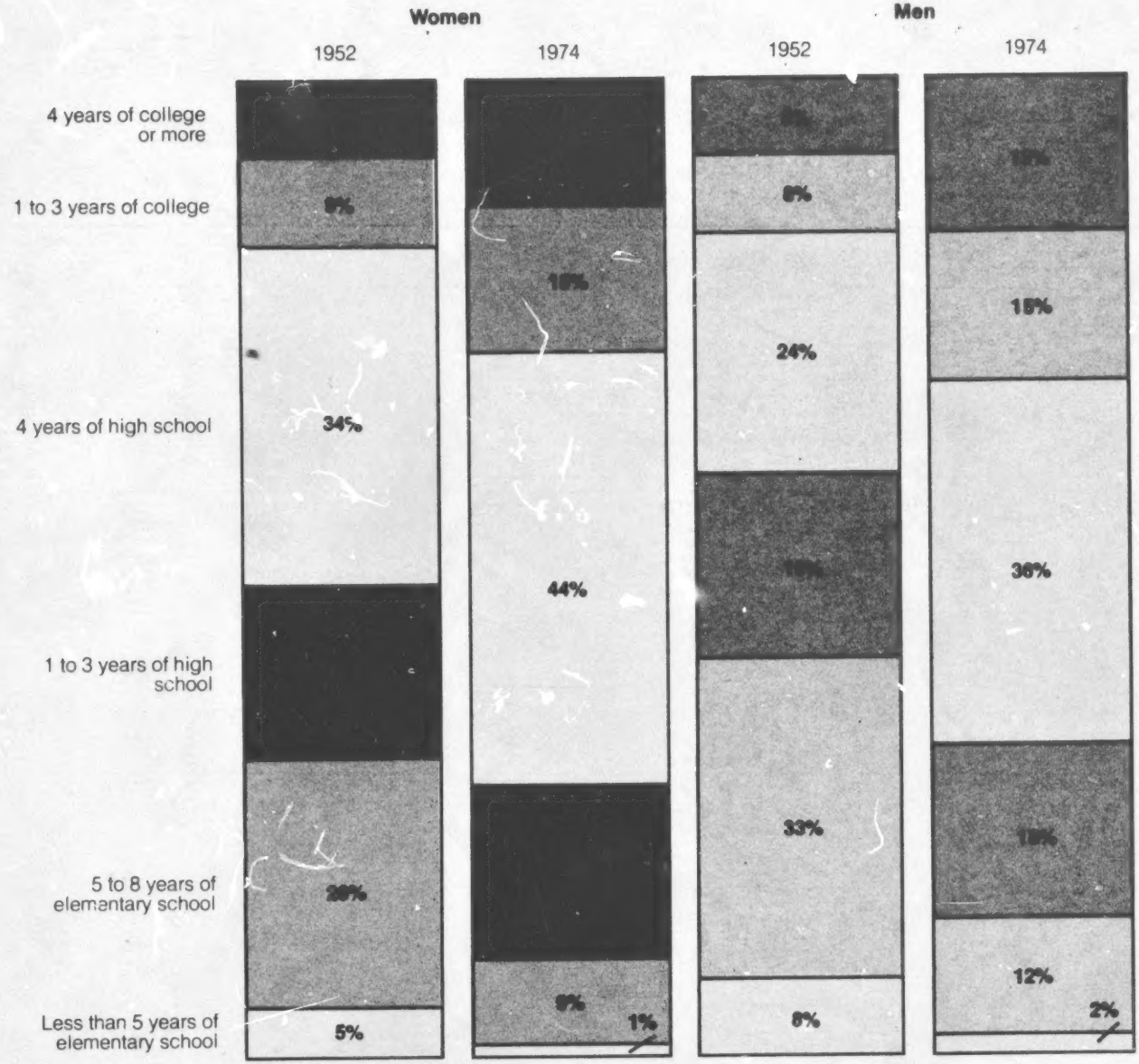
45

Labor force by sex and years of school completed, 1952 and 1974

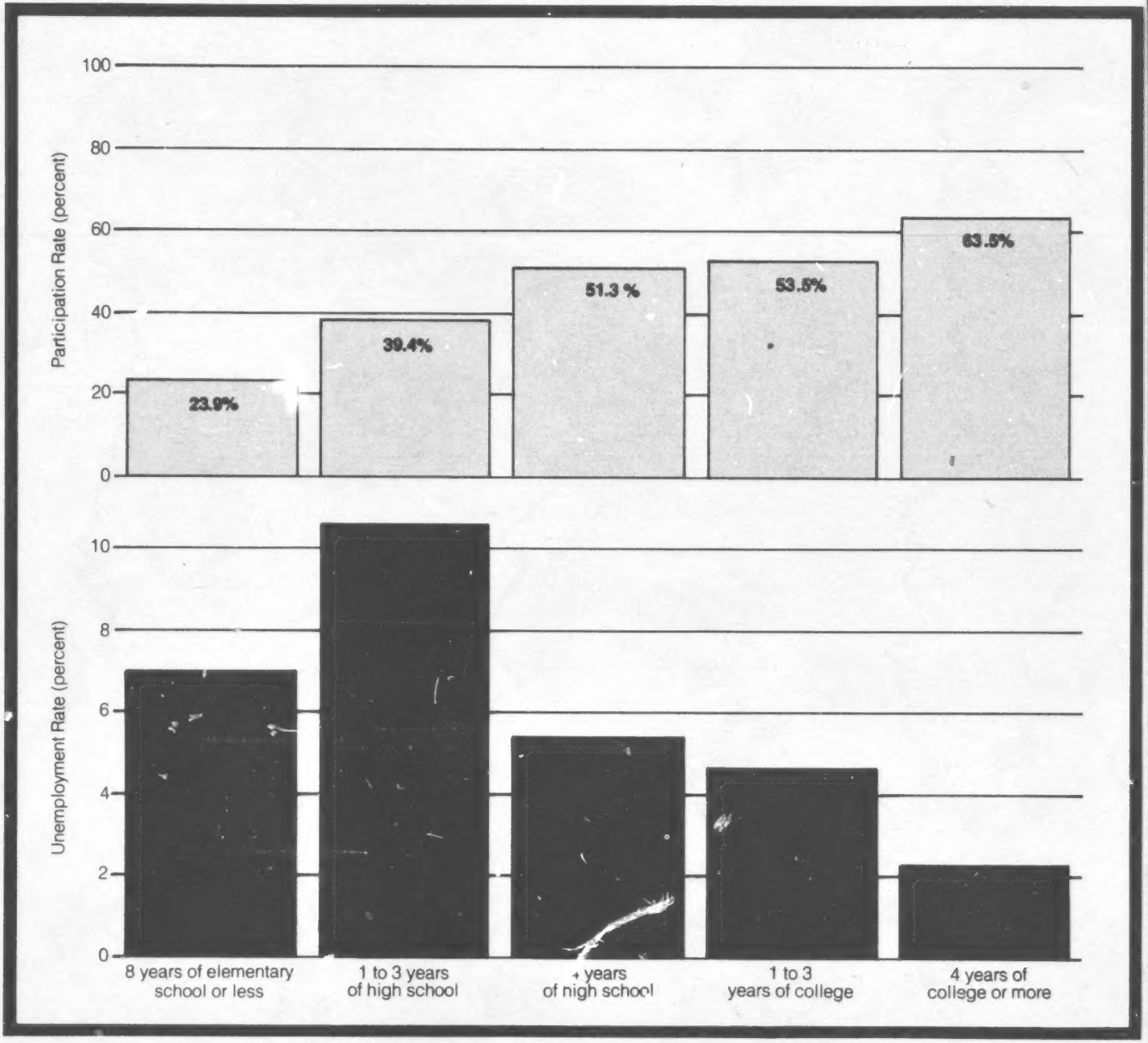


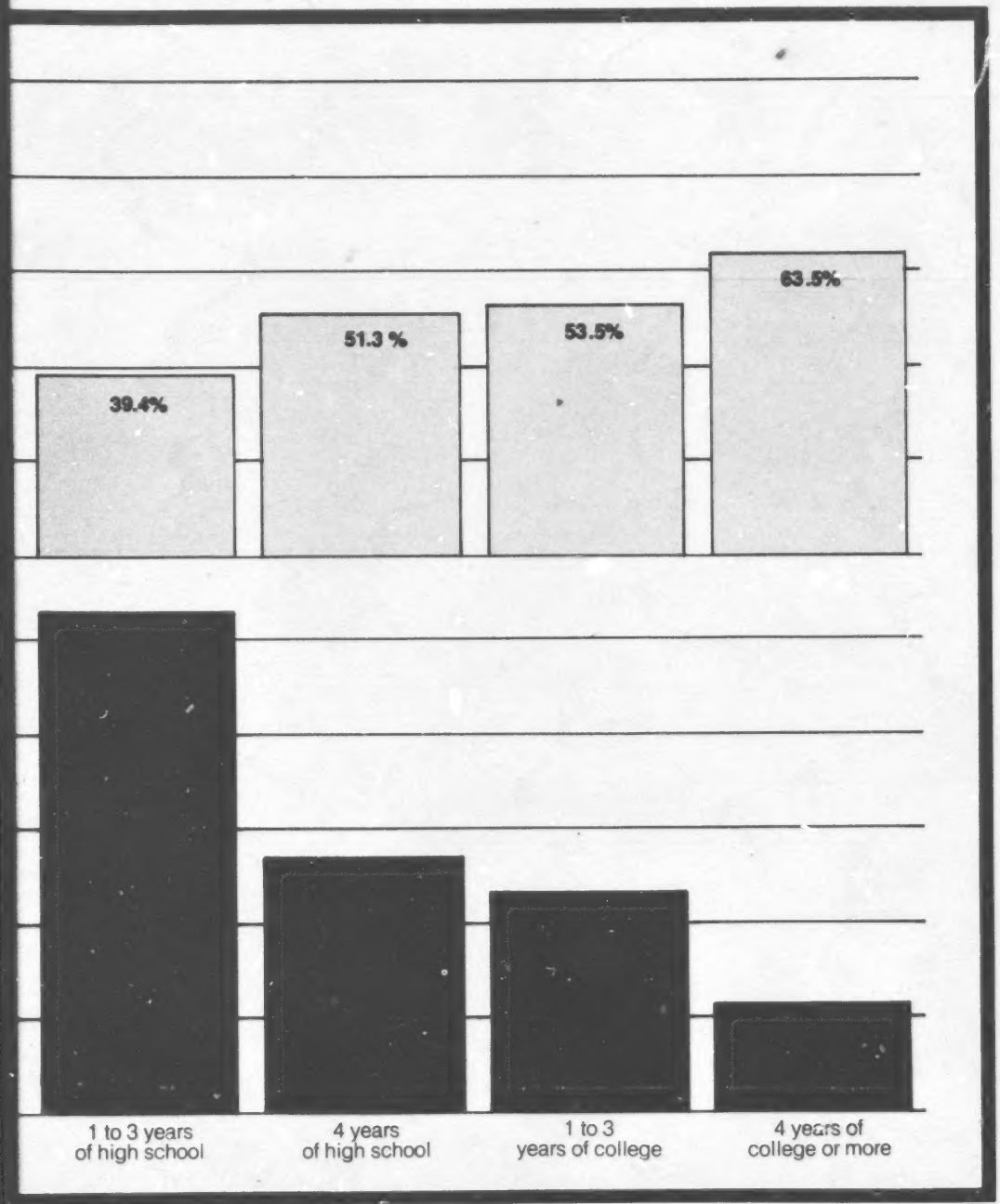
Note: Civilian labor force 18 years old and over in October 1952 and 16 years old and over in March 1974

Women in the labor force are more likely than men to have graduated from high school, but less likely to have completed 4 years of college. Nearly three-quarters of women workers have high school diplomas compared to only one-half in 1952.



Note: Civilian labor force 18 years old and over in October 1952 and 16 years old and over in March 1974.


Participation Rate (percent)
100
80
60
40
20
0
23.9%
39.4%
51.3 %
53.5%
63.5%
Unemployment Rate (percent)
10
8
6
4
2
0
8 years of elementary school or less
1 to 3 years of high school
4 years of nigh school
1 to 3 years of college
4 years of college or more



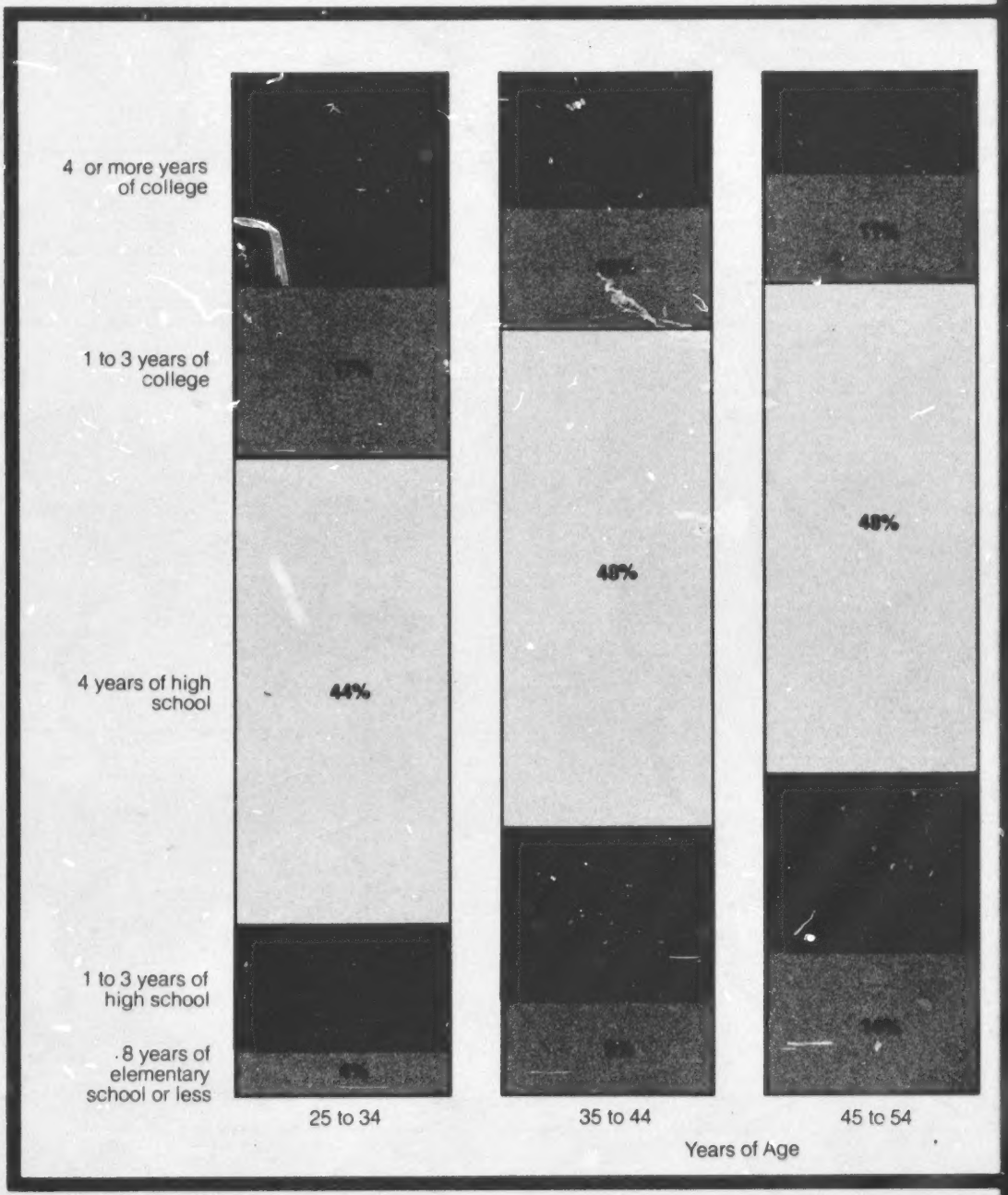
46

Labor force participation and unemployment rates of women by years of school completed, March 1974

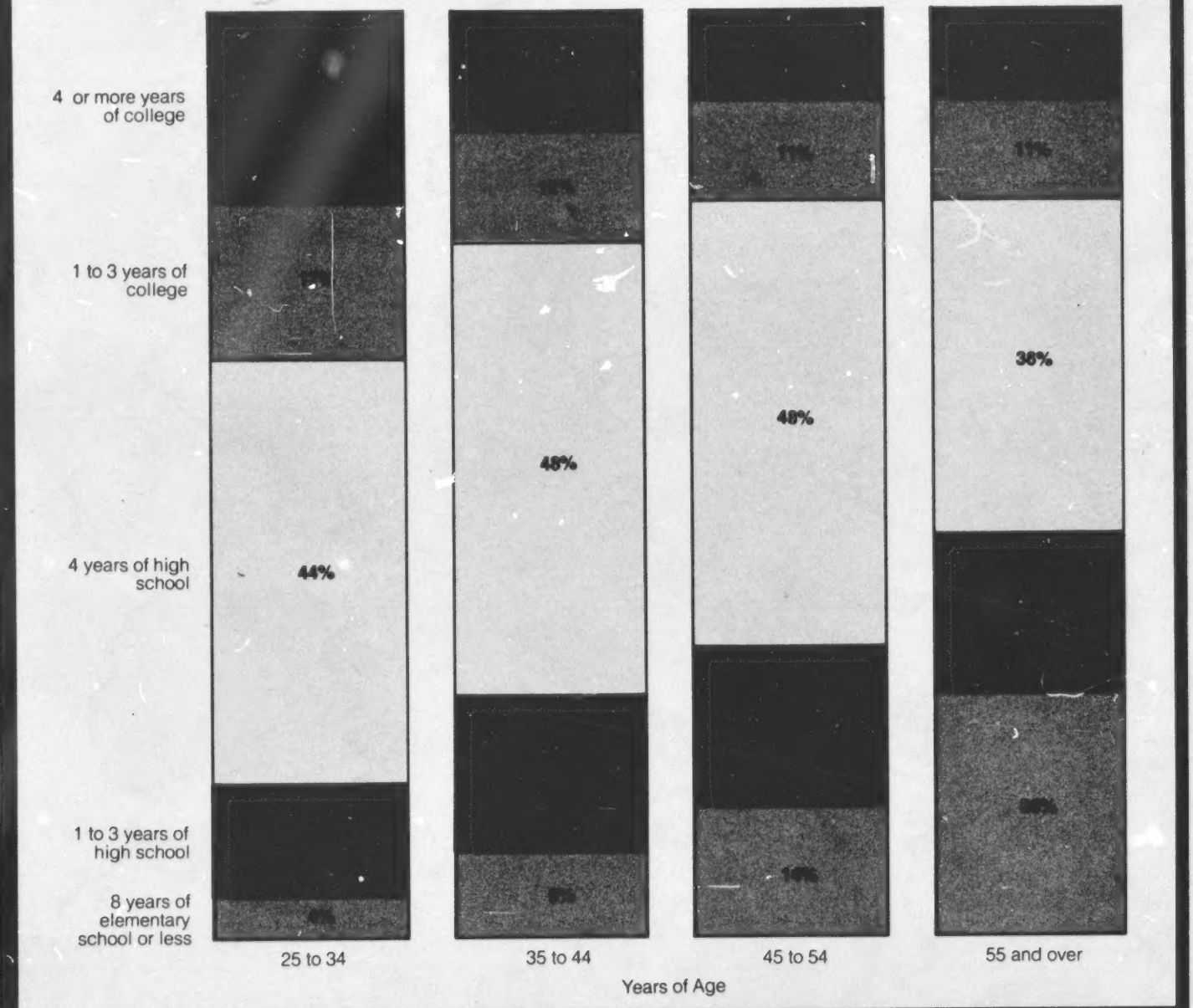
Women with more education are more likely to be in the labor force and less likely to be unemployed.

47

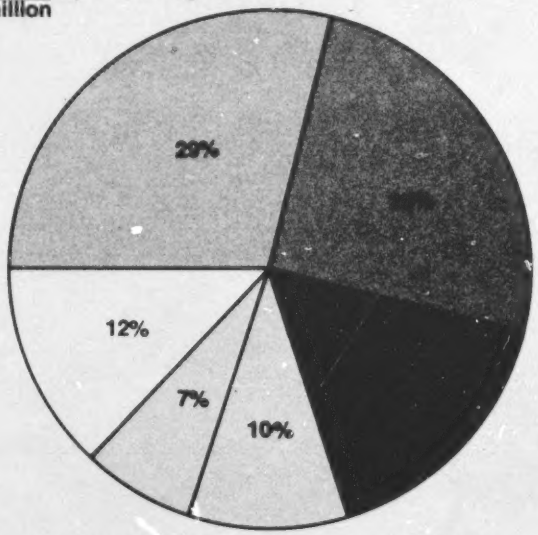
Women in the labor force by age and years of school completed, March 1974

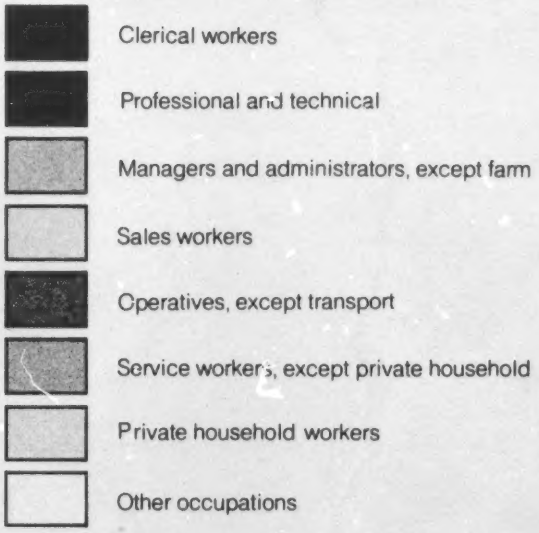


Young women workers have had more formal education than their older counterparts.

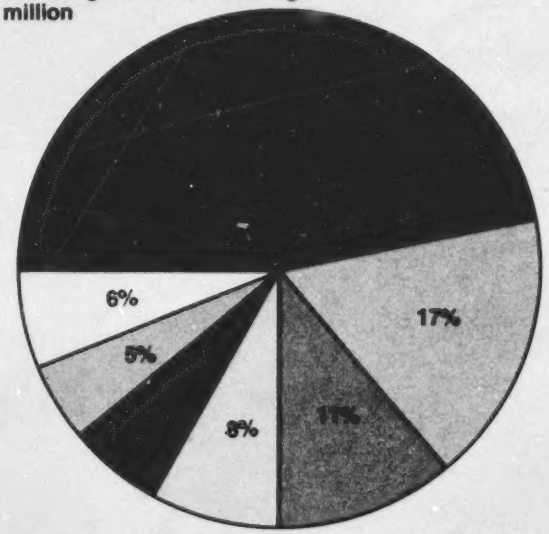

4 or more years of college
1 to 3 years of college
4 years of high school
1 to 3 years of high school
8 years of elementary school or less
44%
48%
48%
36%
25 to 34
35 to 44
45 to 54
55 and over
Years of Age

Less than 4 years of high school
8.9 million

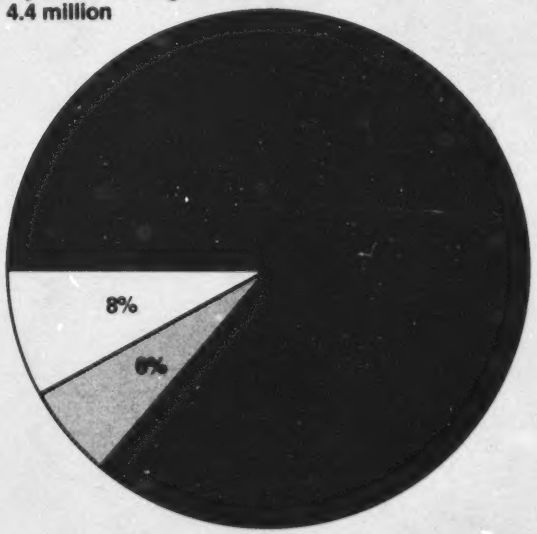




4 years of high school, no college
14.8 million



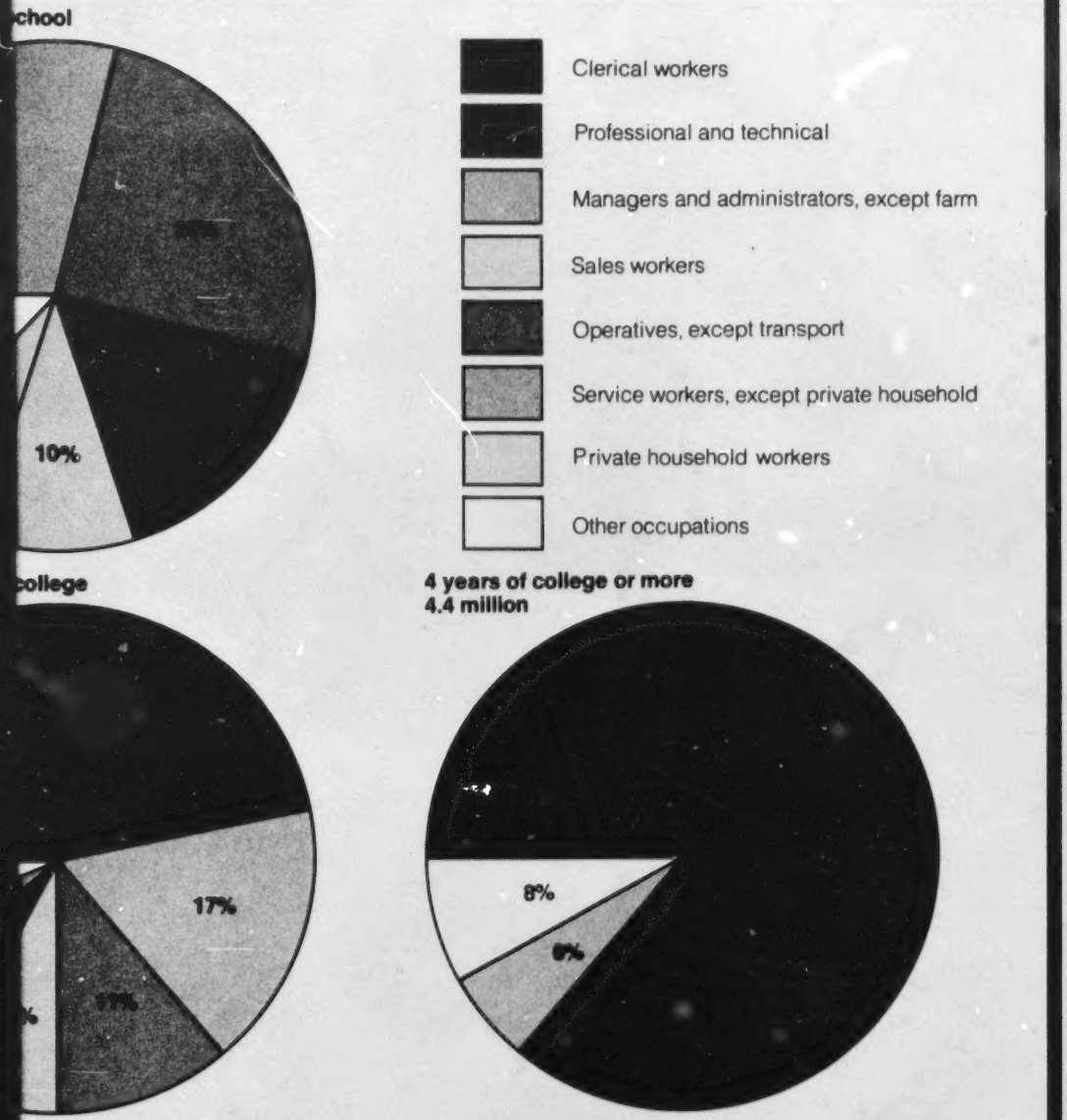
4 years of college or more
4.4 million



Note: "Other occupations" is the sum of those in which less than 5 percent of the women of that educational level are employed.

48

Employed women by years of school completed and occupation, March 1974



Employed women without high school diplomas are concentrated in service and operative occupations . . . Those finishing high school, but without college, are primarily employed as clerical workers . . . Nearly three-fourths of employed women college graduates are in professional-technical occupations.

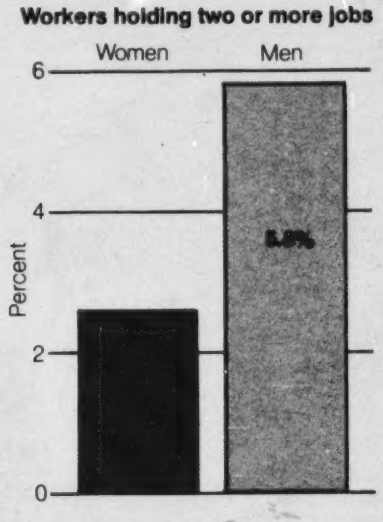
se in which less than 5 percent of the women of that educational level are employed.

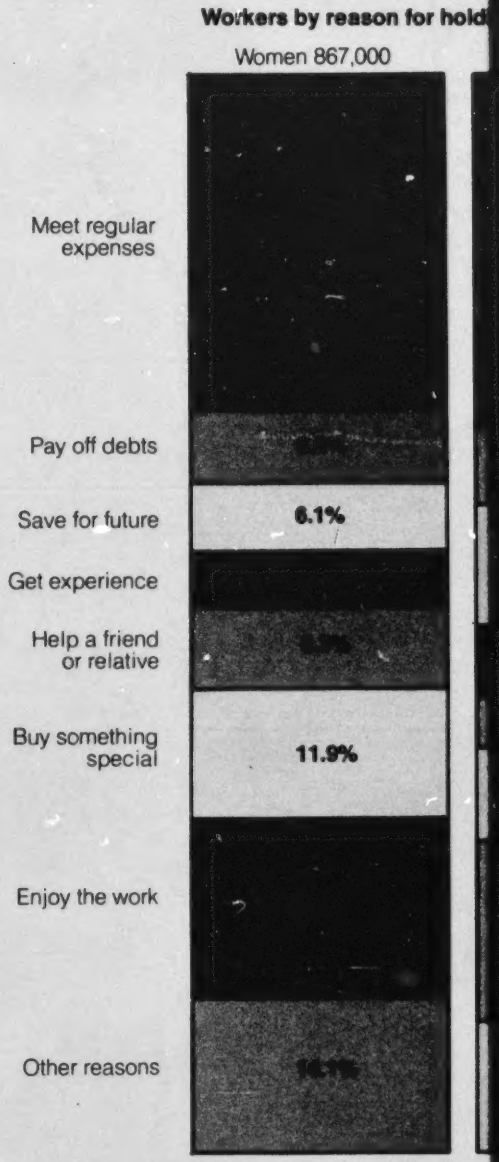
Part V

Additional Characteristics of Working Women

49

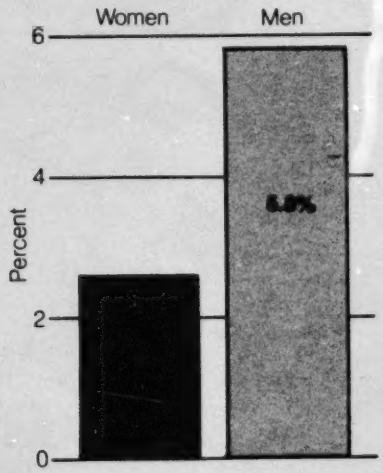
Multiple job-holding by sex, May 1974



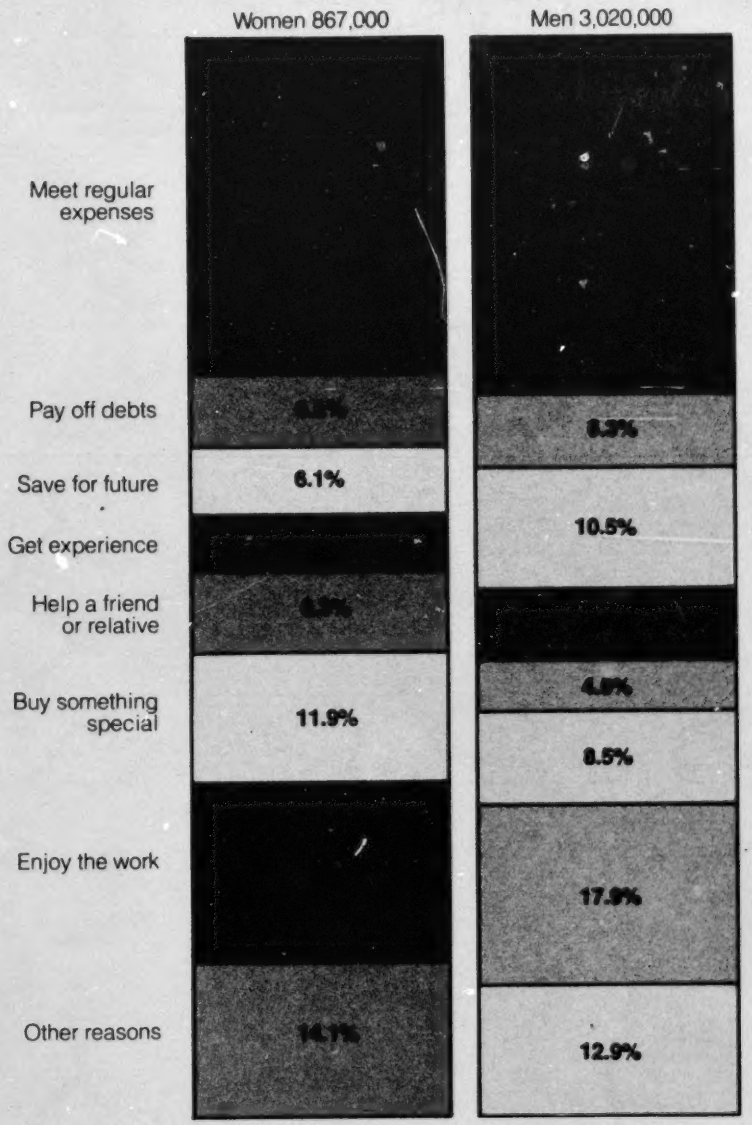


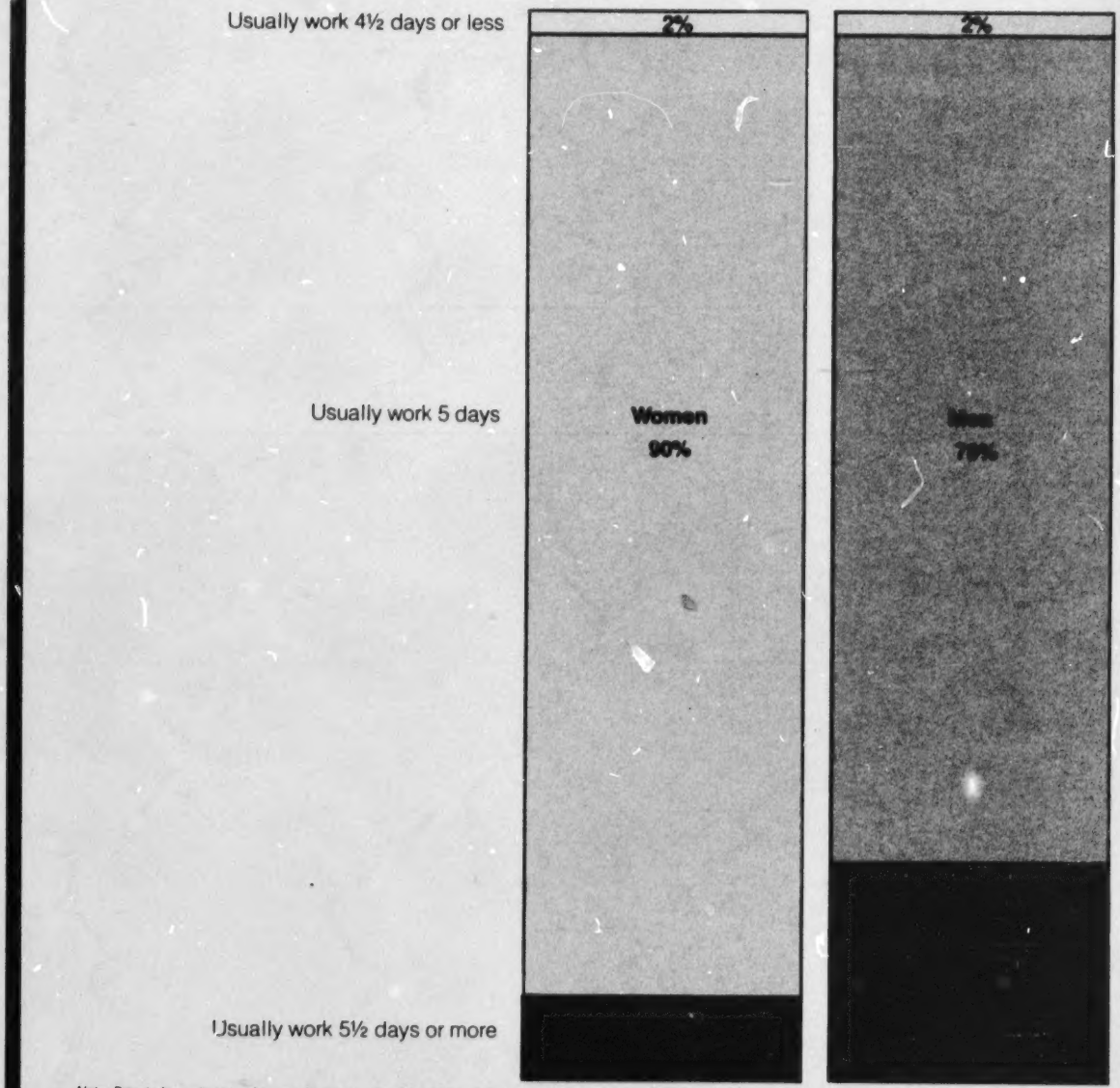
Women are less likely than men to hold two or more jobs; women's reasons for "moonlighting" are similar to men's.

Workers holding two or more jobs



Workers by reason for holding more than one job

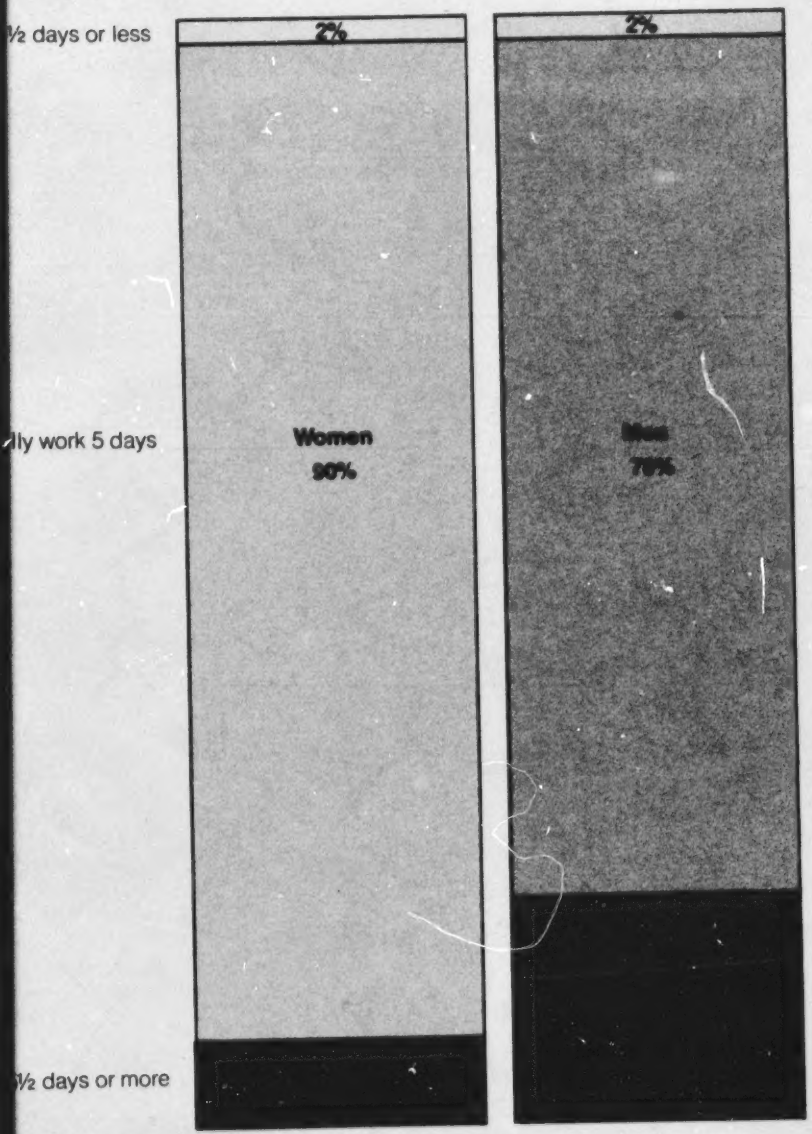




Note. Private household workers and persons who did not report days usually worked are excluded

50

Full-time wage and salary workers by sex and usual workweek, May 1974

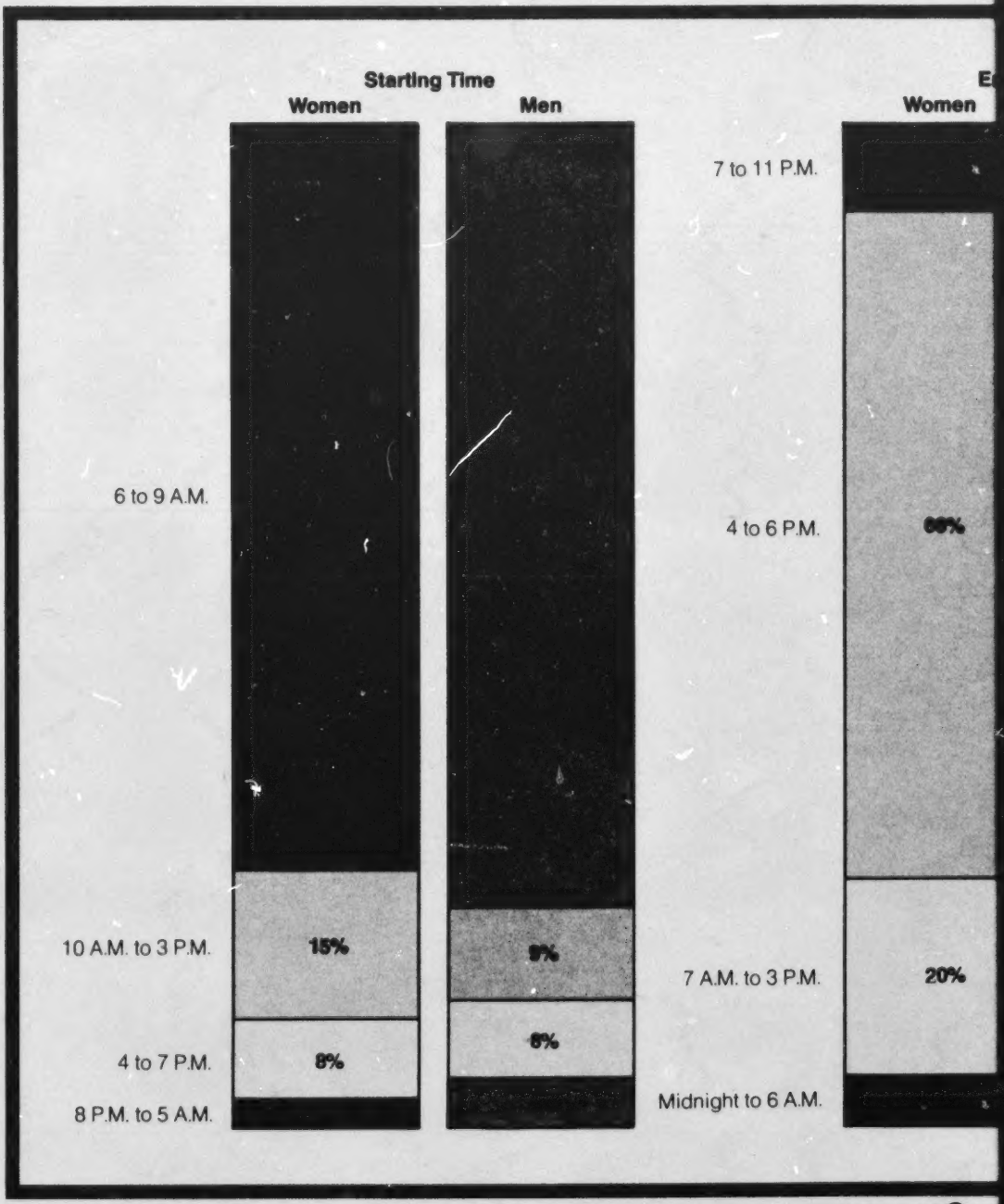


ns who did not report days usually worked are excluded.

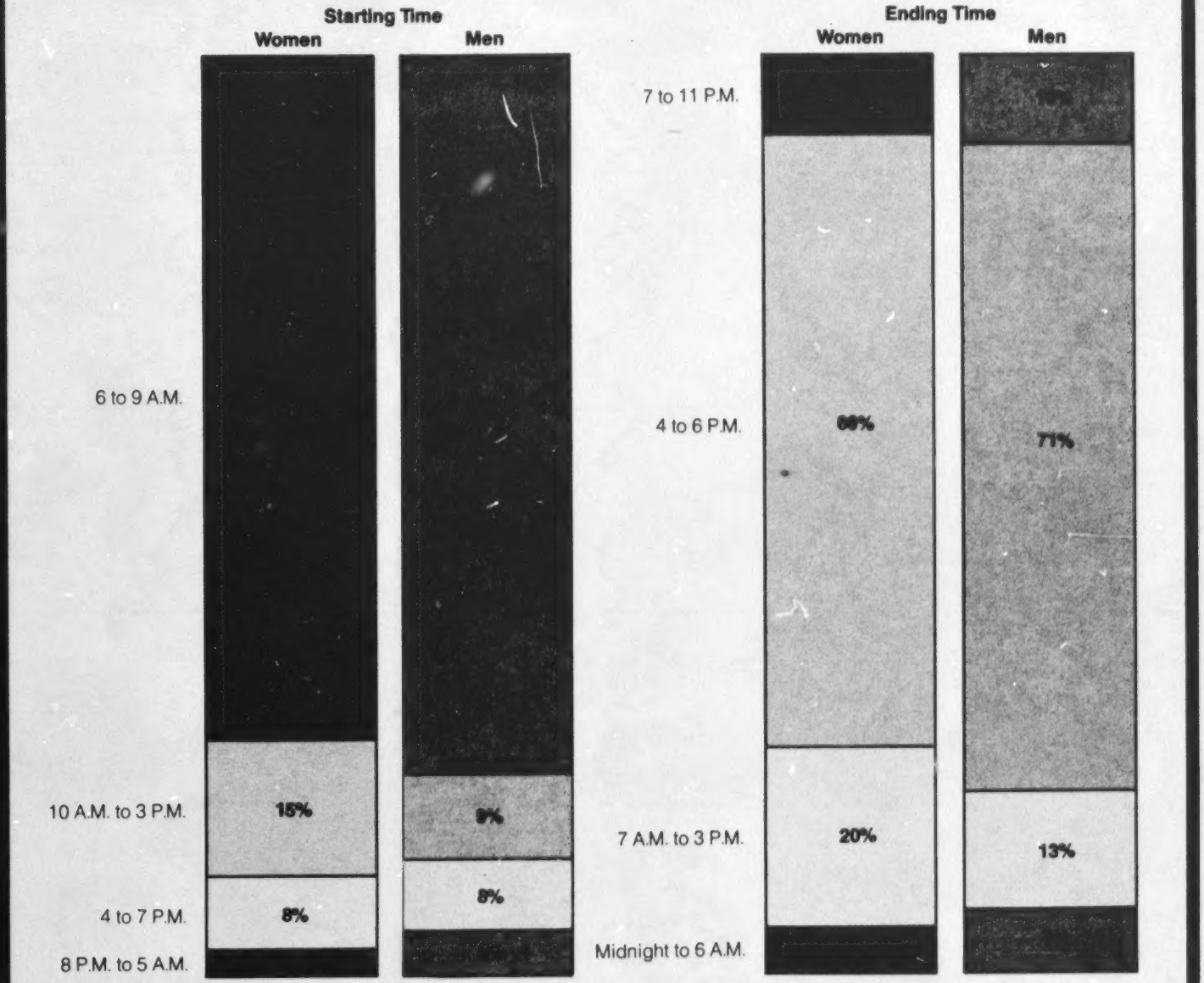
Among full-time workers, women are far less likely than men to work more than 5 days a week.

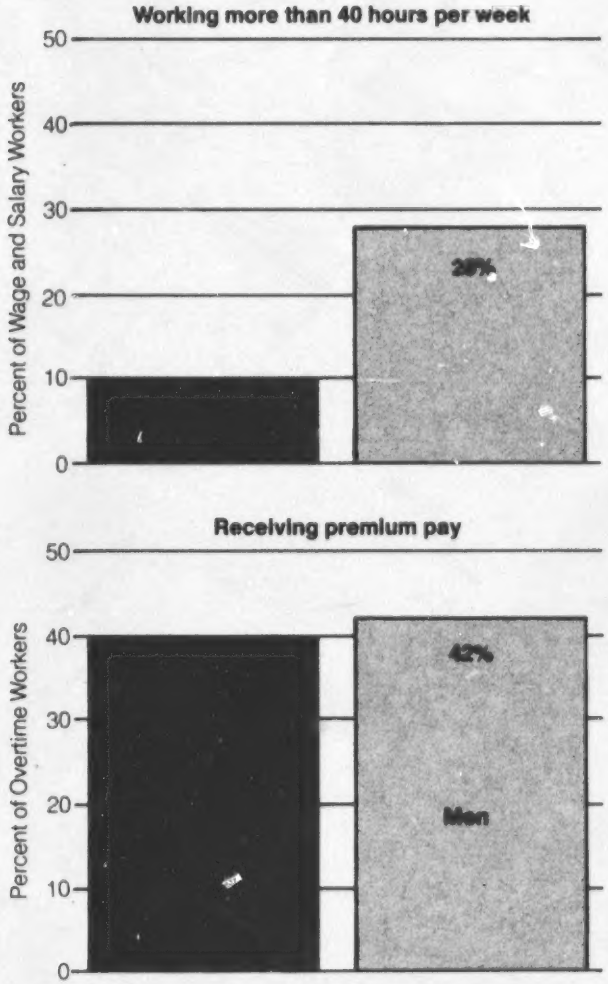
51

Wage and salary workers by sex and time of starting and ending work, May 1974



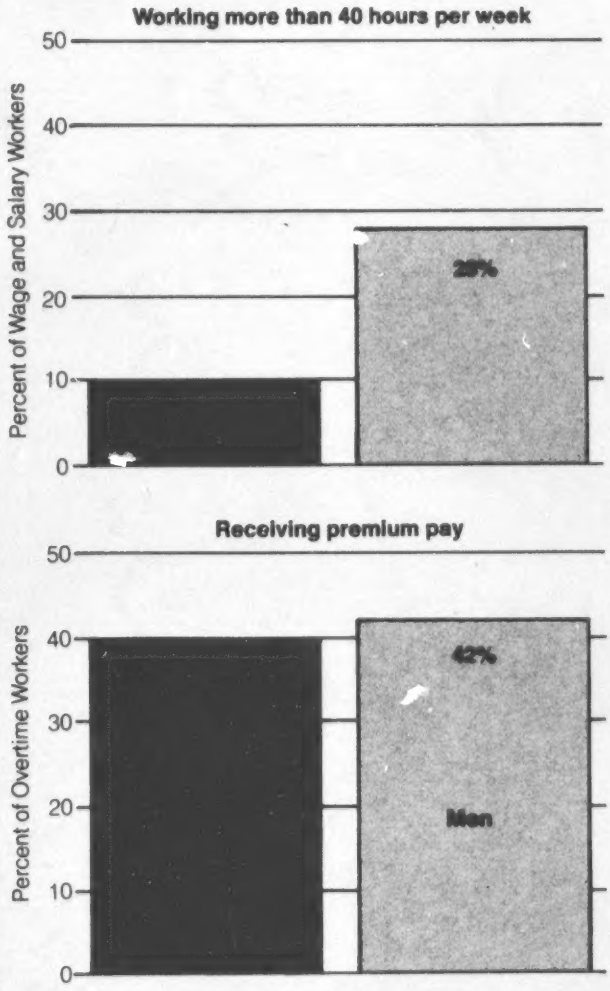
A large majority of both women and men workers report to work between 6 and 9 in the morning and leave work between 4 and 6 in the afternoon.


Starting Time
Women
Men
6 to 9 A.M.
10 A.M. to 3 P.M.
15%
9%
4 to 7 P.M.
8%
8%
8 P.M. to 5 A.M.
Ending Time
Women
Men
7 to 11 P.M.
4 to 6 P.M.
68%
71%
7 A.M. to 3 P.M.
20%
13%
Midnight to 6 A.M.


Working more than 40 hours per week
Percent of Wage and Salary Workers
50
40
30
20
10
0
28%
Receiving premium pay
Percent of Overtime Workers
50
40
30
20
10
0
42%
Men

52

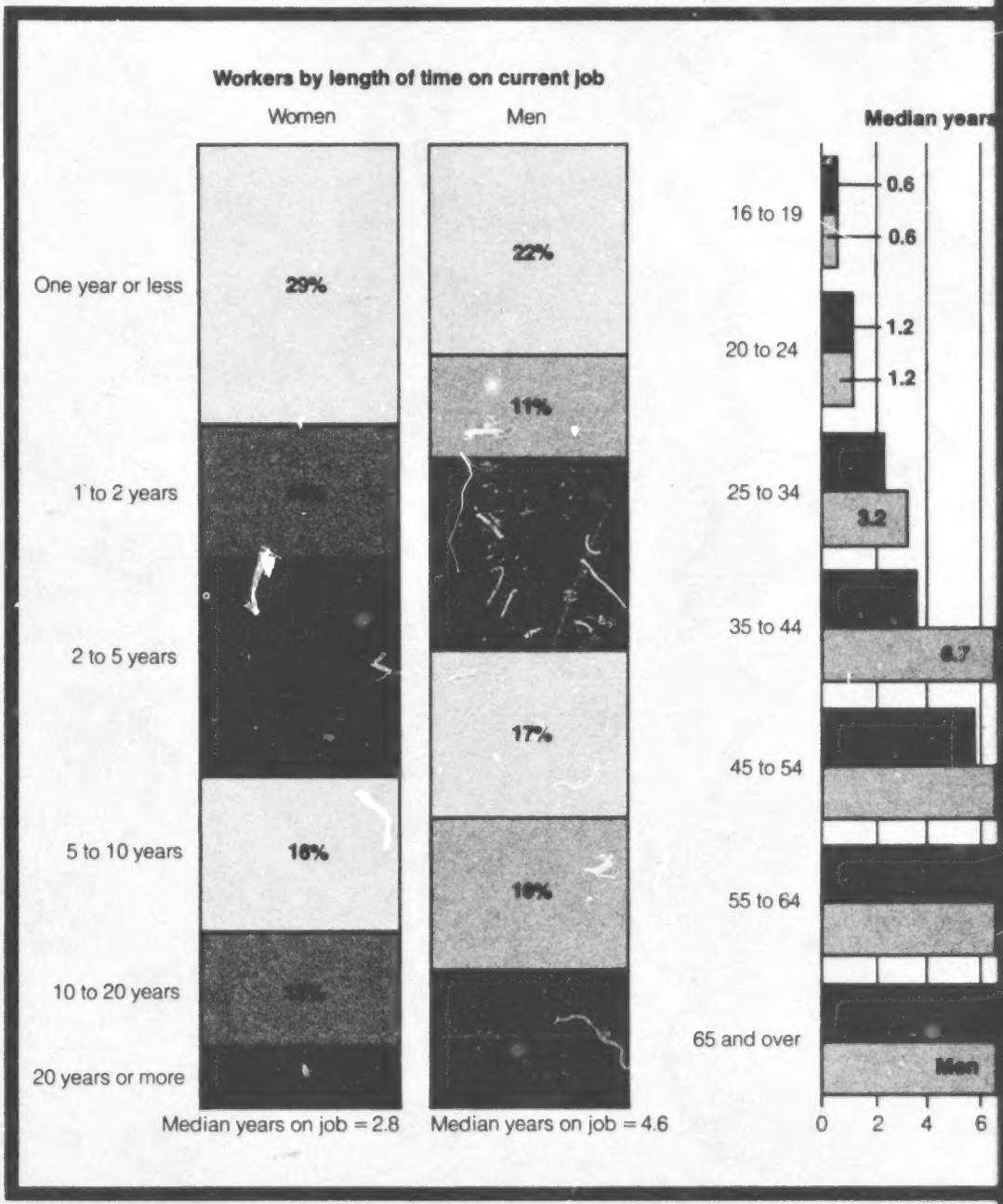
Overtime workers by sex, May 1974



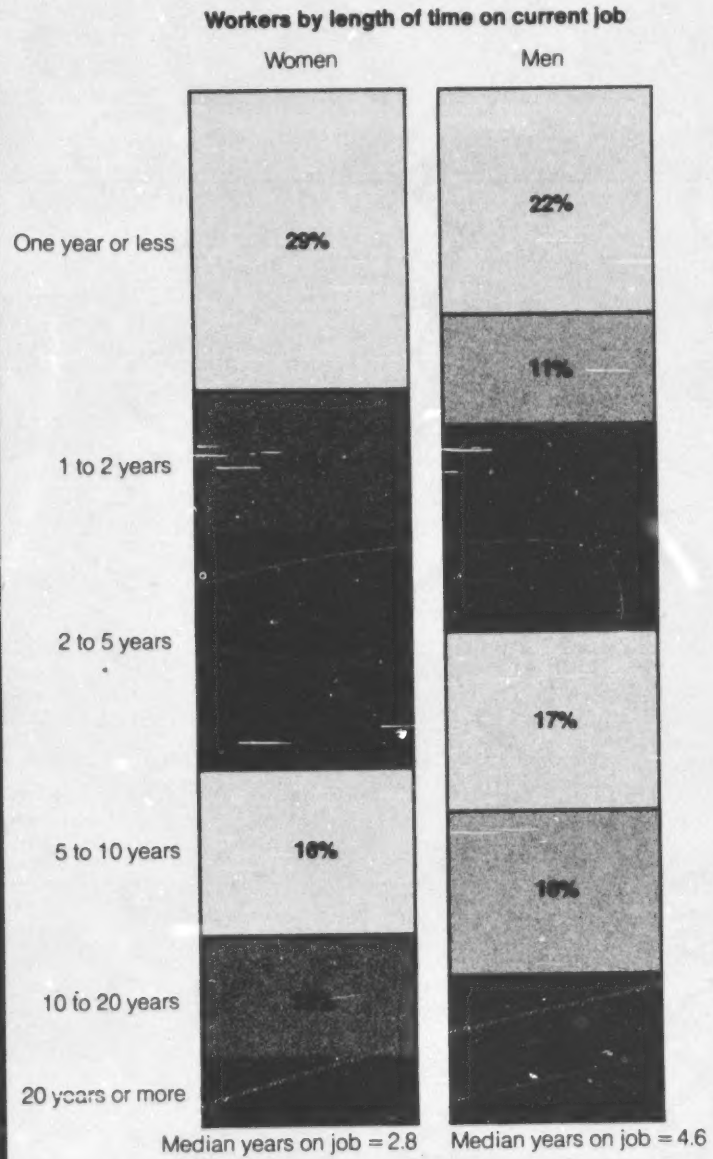
Women are only about one-third as likely as men to work overtime. However, women working overtime are as likely as men to receive premium pay.

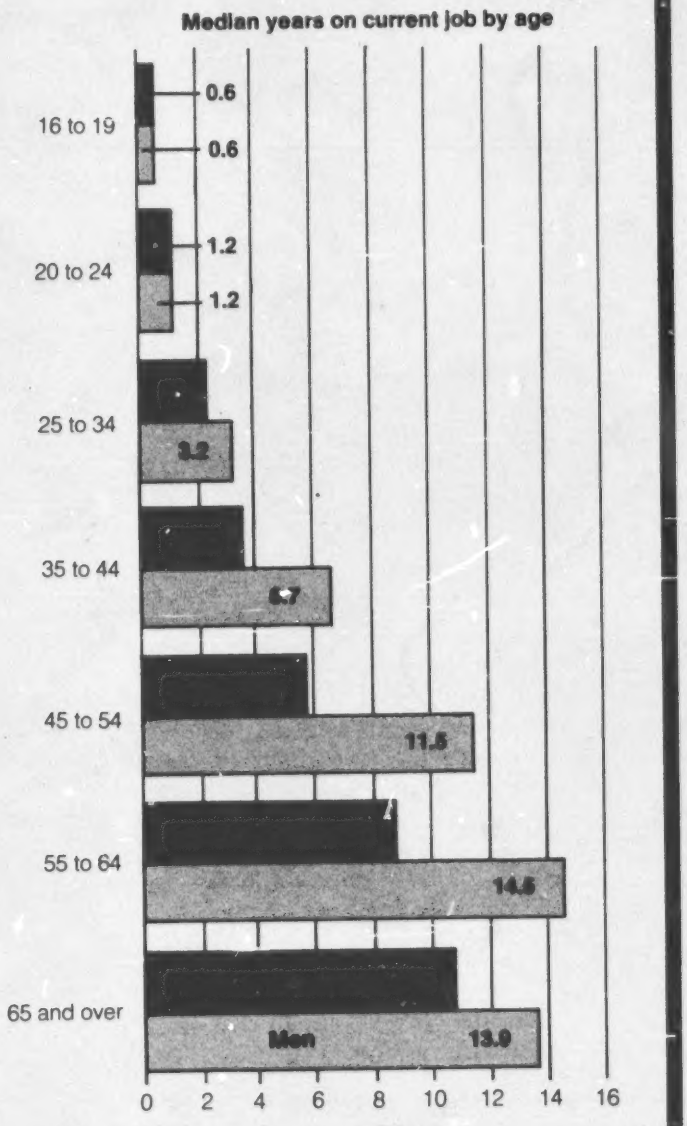
53

Job tenure by sex, January 1973



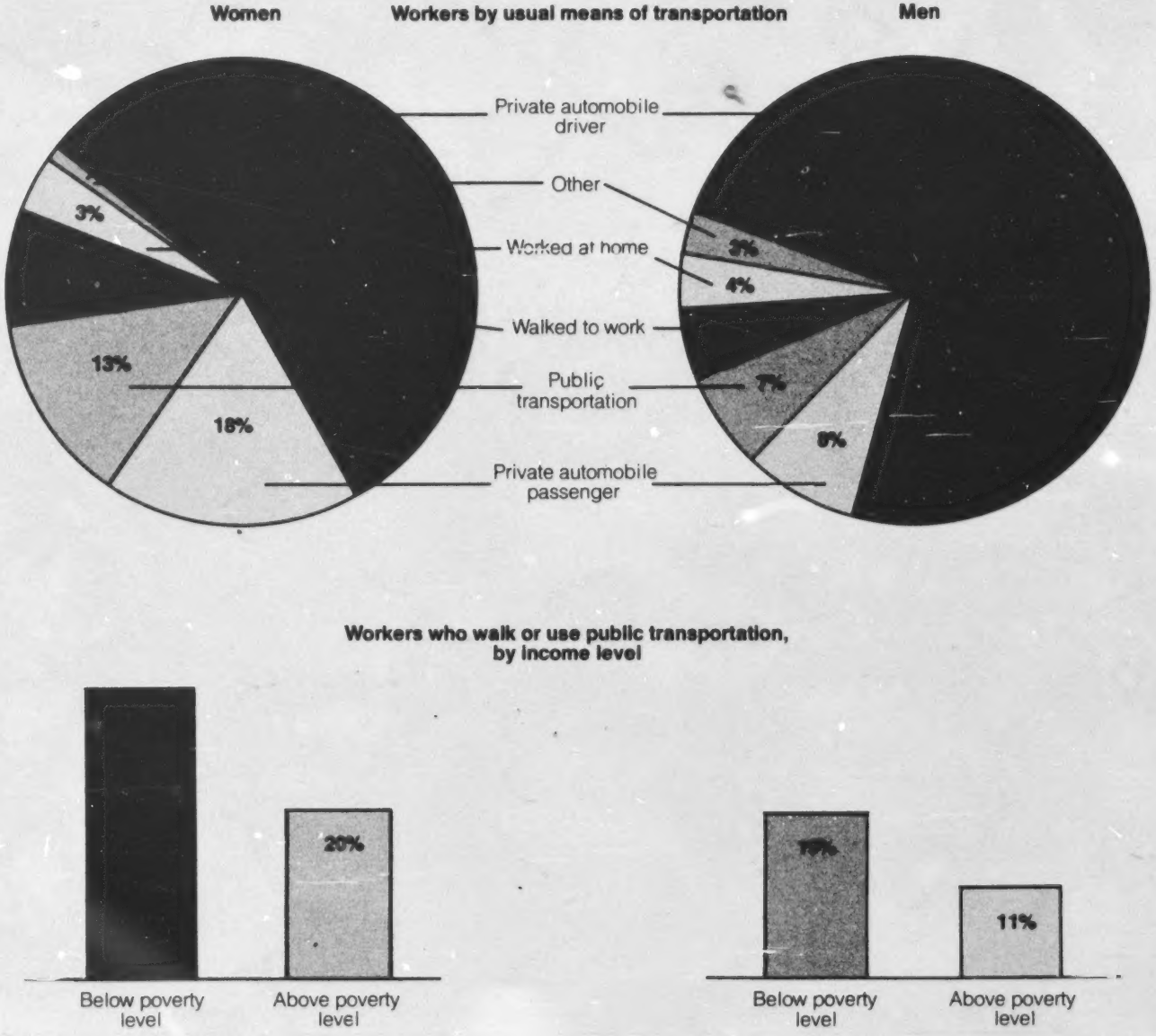
Women have been on their current job a considerably shorter time, on average, than men. The largest differences are in the prime working age groups.


Workers by length of time on current job
Women
Men
One year or less
1 to 2 years
2 to 5 years
5 to 10 years
10 to 20 years
20 years or more
29%
22%
11%
17%
16%
Median years on job = 2.8
Median years on job = 4.6


Median years on current job by age
16 to 19
20 to 24
25 to 34
35 to 44
45 to 54
55 to 64
65 and over
0.6
0.6
1.2
1.2
3.2
6.7
11.5
14.5
13.0
Men
0
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
16

122

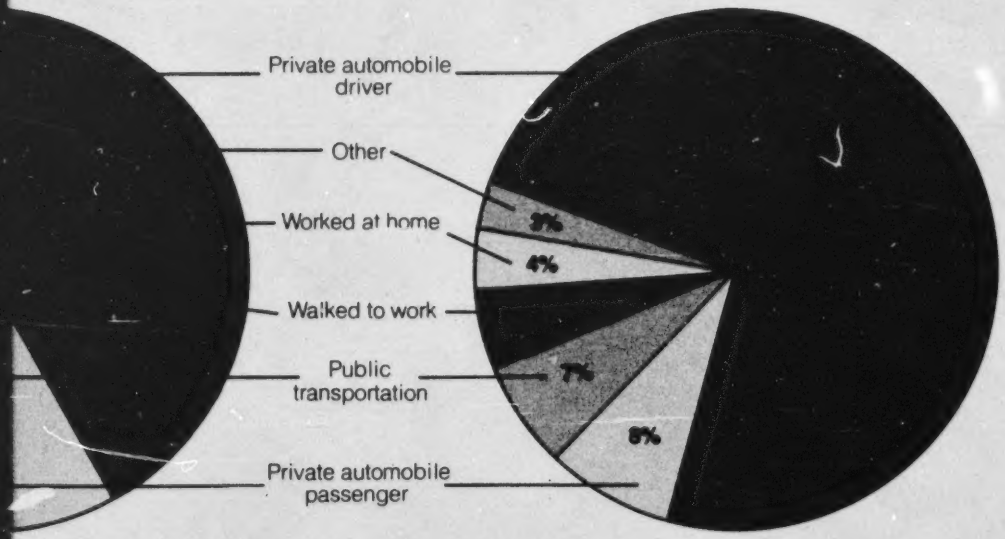
123


Women
Workers by usual means of transportation
Men
Private automobile driver
Other
Worked at home
Walked to work
Public transportation
Private automobile passenger
3%
13%
18%
3%
4%
7%
8%
Workers who walk or use public transportation, by income level
20%
11%
Below poverty level
Above poverty level
Below poverty level
Above poverty level
Income level in 1969

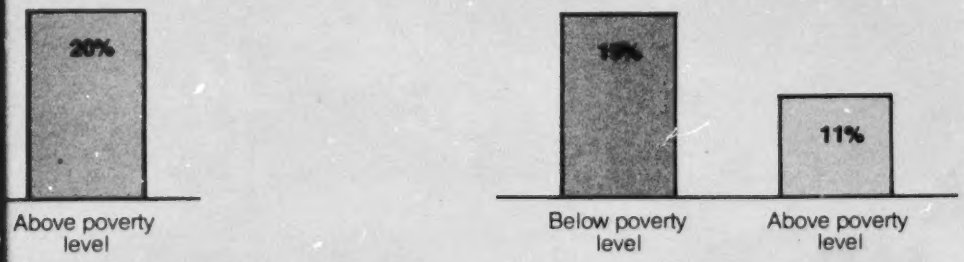
54

Transportation to work, by sex, 1970

Workers by usual means of transportation **Men**



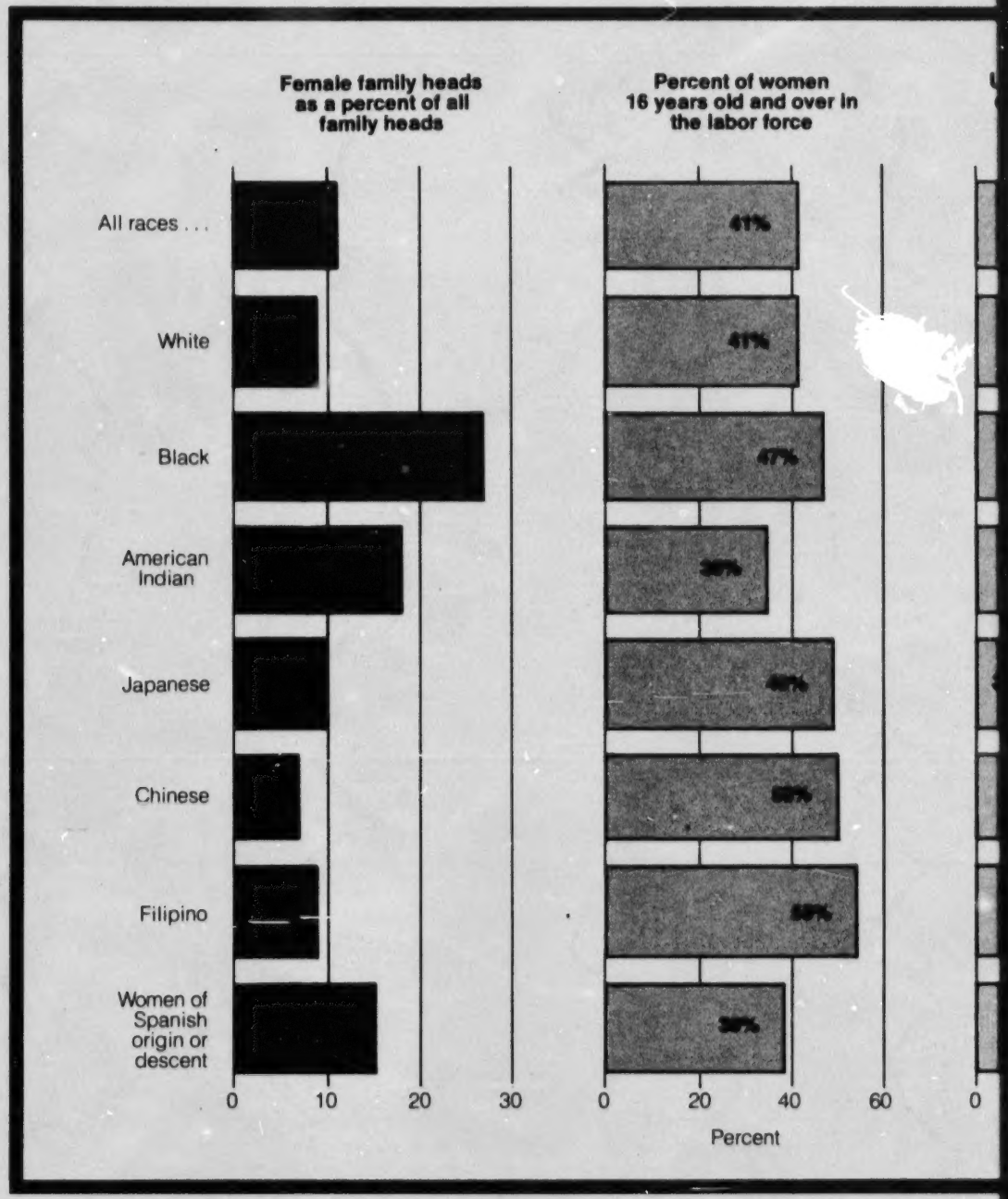
Workers who walk or use public transportation, by income level

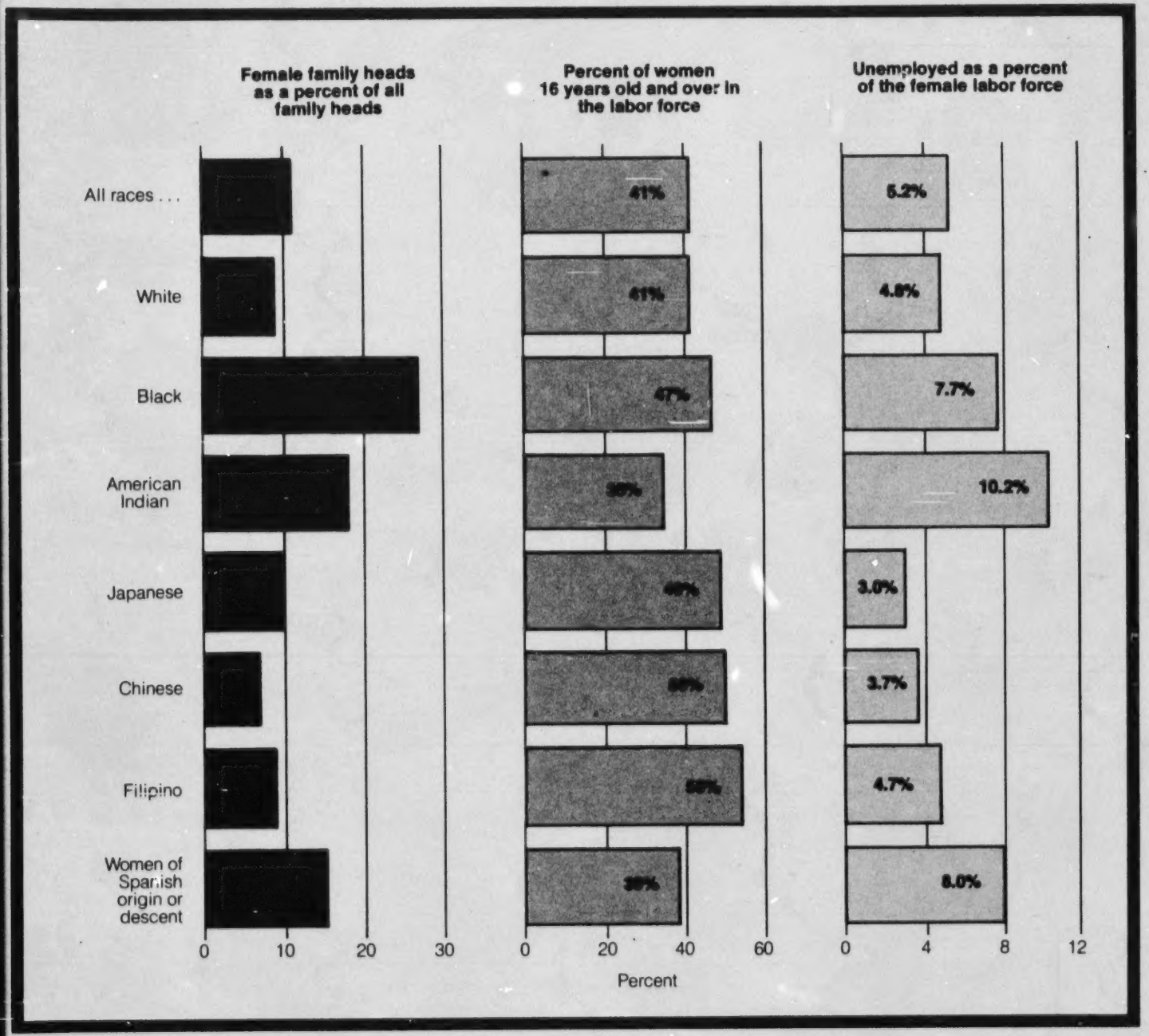


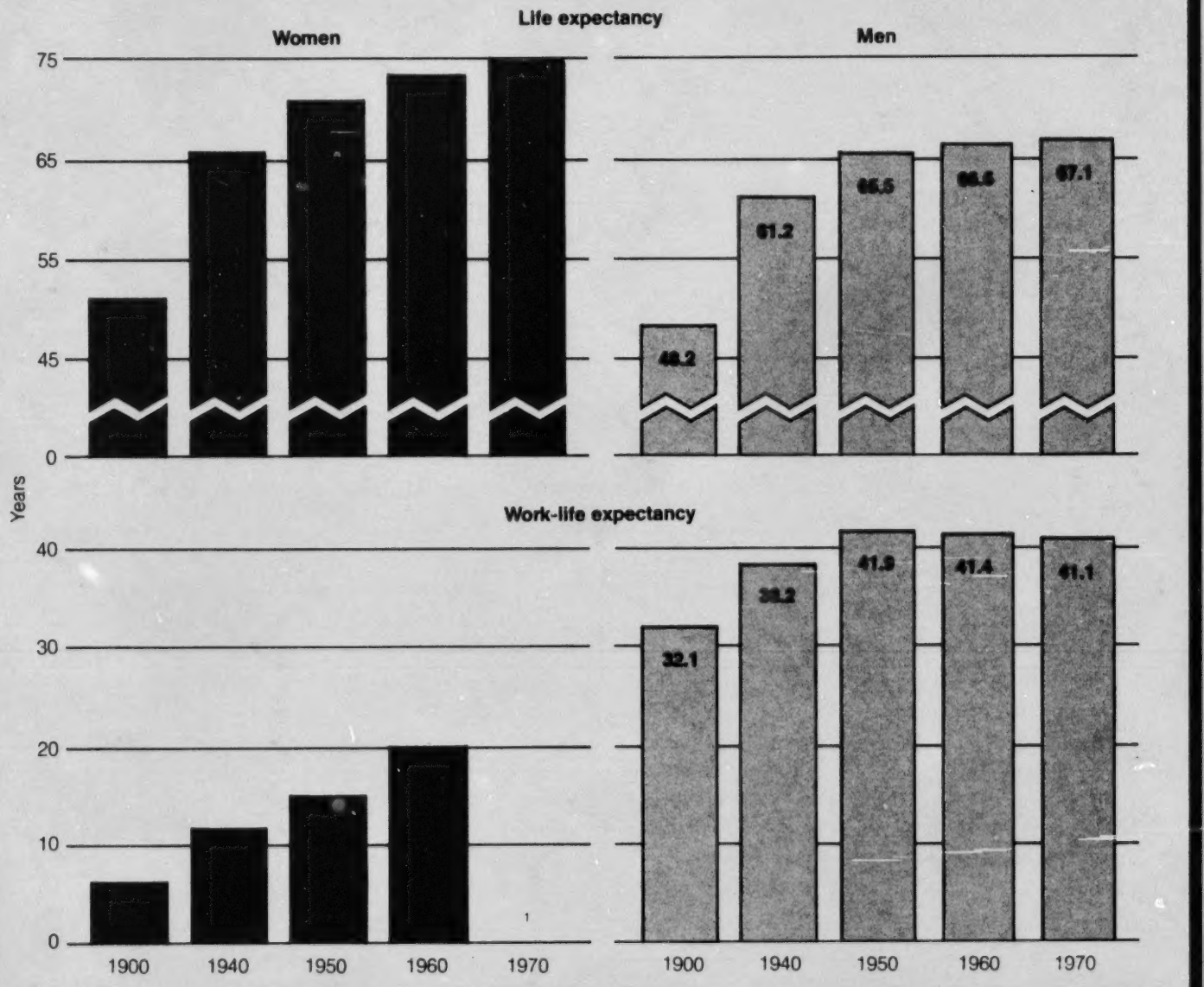
A majority of women workers, like men, drive their cars to work, but women are almost twice as likely as men to use public transportation. One-third of the low-income women workers either walk to work or use public transportation.

55

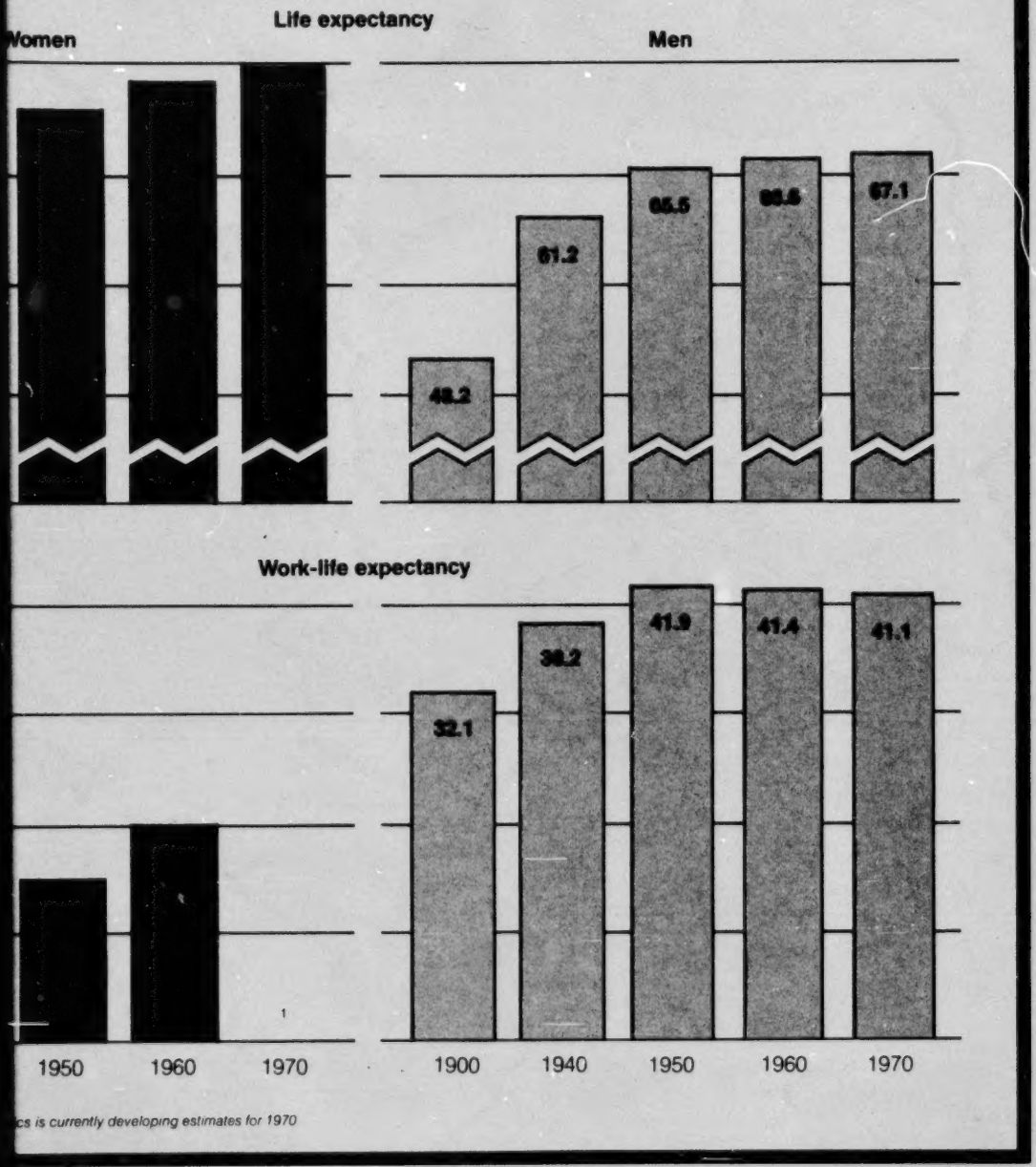
Selected indicators for women by race and Spanish origin, 1970




Female family heads as a percent of all family heads
Percent of women 16 years old and over in the labor force
Unemployed as a percent of the female labor force
All races . . .
White
Black
American Indian
Japanese
Chinese
Filipino
Women of Spanish origin or descent
41%
41%
47%
38%
49%
50%
55%
39%
5.2%
4.8%
7.7%
10.2%
3.0%
3.7%
4.7%
8.0%
0
10
20
30
0
20
40
60
0
4
8
12
Percent



[1] Not available. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is currently developing estimates for 1970.



cs is currently developing estimates for 1970

56

Life expectancy and work-life expectancy by sex, selected years, 1900-1970

The work-life expectancy of American women has expanded enormously since the beginning of the century. Women's work life will undoubtedly continue to lengthen in the face of such changes as the decline in birth rates, the upturn in divorce and separation, and enforcement of legislation prohibiting sex discrimination.

Sources of Data

The source of data for all charts, except 10, 11, 54, 55, and 56, is the Current Population Survey (CPS) conducted monthly for the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce. The survey consists of approximately 47,000 households eligible for interview from which about 45,000 interviews are obtained each month. The sample is selected to represent the entire United States population 16 years of age and older. Survey responses on labor force and employment status are tabulated and published monthly by BLS in *Employment and Earnings*. In addition, supplemental questions relating to other social and economic characteristics of the work force or of particular subgroups are included in specific months' surveys. For example, supplemental questions on income, marital and family characteristics, work experience, and educational attainment are included in the March survey, and usual weekly earnings, multiple jobholding, and work schedules in the May survey.

Charts 10 and 11 are based on establishment records. These data are compiled each month by BLS from mail questionnaires, and cover only persons on government and business establishment payrolls. The 1970 decennial Census of Population is the source of data for charts 54 and 55. Data for chart 56 were developed in BLS and in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The data for each chart can be found in the publications cited below, along with information on survey methods, definitions of terms, reliability of estimates, and related matters.

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U. S. GOVE

except 10, 11, 54, 55, and 56, is the
conducted monthly for the U. S. Bureau of
reau of the Census of the U. S. Department
ts of approximately 47,000 households
about 45,000 interviews are obtained each
represent the entire United States popula-
urvey responses on labor force and
and published monthly by BLS in
dition, supplemental questions relating to
cteristics of the work force or of particular
ic months' surveys. For example, supple-
rital and family characteristics, work
inment are included in the March survey,
iple jobholding, and work schedules in

stablishment records. These data are
m mail questionnaires, and cover only
iness establishment payrolls. The 1970
is the source of data for charts 54 and 55.
in BLS and in the Department of Health,

und in the publications cited below, along
ods, definitions of terms, reliability of

Chart	Source
1.	U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), *Employment and Earnings*, January 1975.
2-4.	BLS, *Handbook of Labor Statistics: 1974*, and *Employment and Earnings*, January 1975.
5.	BLS, *Employment and Earnings*, January 1975.
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